

Breaking Ranks

Clinton Opposes Obama's Signature Pacific Trade Deal

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton reacts to a supporter before speaking at a community forum, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, in Davenport, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

Russia fires missiles from warships into Syria

N. VASILYEVA
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Russian warships in the Caspian Sea fired cruise missiles Wednesday as Syrian government troops launched a ground offensive in central Syria in the first major combined air-and-ground assault since Moscow began its military campaign in the country last week. The missiles flew nearly 1,500 kilometers (930 miles)

and other groups opposed to President Bashar Assad. A Syrian official and activists said government troops pushed into areas in the central province of Hama and south of Idlib in the boldest multipronged attack on rebel-held areas, benefiting from the Russian air cover. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media. Moscow has mainly tar-

ducted from four warships in the Caspian. Shoigu insisted the operation destroyed all the targets and did not launch any strikes on civilian areas. The launches marked the combat debut of the Russian Kalibr long-range cruise missiles, equivalent to U.S. Tomahawk missiles. "The fact that we launched precision weapons from the Caspian Sea to the distance of about 1,500 kilo-



In this photo made from the footage taken from Russian Defense Ministry official web site, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015, a Russian navy ship launches a cruise missile in the Caspian Sea. Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said four Russian navy ships in the Caspian launched 26 cruise missiles at Islamic State targets in Syria.

(Russian Defense Ministry Press Service via AP)

over Iran and Iraq and struck Raqqa and Aleppo provinces in the north and Idlib province in the northwest, Russian officials said. The Islamic State group has strongholds in Raqqa and Aleppo, while the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front has a strong presence in Idlib. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Russia was continuing to strike targets other than Islamic State militants, adding that he was concerned about the Syrian ground offensive backed by Moscow's airpower. The latest developments came a week after Russia began airstrikes in Syria, its longtime ally, on Sept. 30, and added a new dimension to the complex war that has torn apart the Middle East country since 2011. Activists and rebels say the targets have included Western-backed fighters

geted central and northwestern Syria, strategic regions that are the gateway to Assad's strongholds in Damascus, and along the Mediterranean coast where Russia has a naval base. The Russian airstrikes strikes appear to have emboldened Syrian troops to launch the ground push after a series of setbacks in northwestern Syria in recent months. The Islamic State group is not present in the areas where the ground fighting is underway. The offensive in central Syria and the ensuing clashes with militants, including the Nusra Front, was the first major ground fighting since the Russian campaign began. Appearing on television with President Vladimir Putin, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said 26 missile strikes were con-

ducted from four warships in the Caspian. Shoigu insisted the operation destroyed all the targets and did not launch any strikes on civilian areas. The launches marked the combat debut of the Russian Kalibr long-range cruise missiles, equivalent to U.S. Tomahawk missiles. "The fact that we launched precision weapons from the Caspian Sea to the distance of about 1,500 kilo-

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Iran lobbied for Russian campaign in Syria, according to Iraq officials

QASSIM ZAHRA
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iran played an integral role leading up to Russia's move to launch its air campaign in Syria and play a stronger role in Iraq, with one of Tehran's most powerful generals meeting for three hours with President Vladimir Putin to push for intervention, Iraqi government officials tell The Associated Press. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, head of Iran's elite Quds Force, went to Moscow in August with the message that Russian airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Syria were imperative, said the two senior officials, who were later briefed on the meeting. Soleimani and Putin reviewed maps and surveillance photos and shared intelligence, all suggesting the militant group would expand its reach to Russia's doorstep in the Caucasus if Moscow didn't act, the two officials said. The meeting also covered plans to create a joint intelligence-sharing center between Iraq, Syria, Iran and Russia in Baghdad, which began operating later the same month. Soleimani also met with senior Russian military officials during his visit, the officials said. The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk about the secret meeting. The Iranian role points to the powerful influence of the country, which is the strongest backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad and is close to the Shiite-led leadership in Iraq's U.S.-backed government. Russia's dive into the Mideast's conflicts marks a shifting of alliances, particularly with Iraq, where officials have grumbled that the U.S.-led coalition's air campaign against IS has not been as effective as they hoped and the prime minister has said he'd welcome Russian airstrikes.

Asked on Wednesday about the reported Putin-Soleimani meeting, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov shrugged it off by saying that there are too many statements from unidentified officials. At the time, Russia's deputy foreign ministry spokesman said he has "no information whatsoever" that Soleimani visited Russia, which would be a violation of U.N. travel sanctions against the general. The Iranian government on Wednesday did not respond to requests for comment on the reported meeting.

Russian military jets launched the airstrike campaign in Syria on Sept. 30, targeting what Moscow said were positions of the Islamic State group and al-Qaida's branch. But it has also heavily hit rebels on the front-line against Syria's military, raising accusations that it is intervening to boost Assad in the civil war, now in its fifth year, after a series of losses by his military. Russia denies this, saying its campaign is solely intended to stop the spread of militants.

The U.S. meanwhile has had to navigate around regional alliances and enmities in trying to roll back IS's spread across large parts of Iraq and Syria. In Syria, Washington refuses to work with Assad's government in the air campaign, saying Assad needs to leave power, and it has been wary of appearing to help Syrian troops with strikes against IS.

In Iraq, the U.S. has been wary of helping to deepen Iran's influence and has avoided coordinating with the Shiite militias, trying instead to boost the Iraqi military, while pressing the Shiite-led government to ease sectarian tensions with the Sunni minority. Washington and Tehran refuse to work with each other directly, even as Iran takes a powerful role in fighting IS. Soleimani, Tehran's point man in both the Syrian and Iraq conflicts, has been key in organizing Shiite militias in Iraq and Syria, which have had a leading role in fighting IS. □

US Senate OKs massive defense bill, sending measure to Obama

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress on Wednesday sent President Barack Obama a sweeping \$612 billion U.S. defense policy bill that he has threatened to veto over a continuing battle between Democrats and Republicans about government spending.

The Senate voted to approve the measure 70 to 27. If Obama vetoes the defense bill, it would be only the fifth time that has happened in the past half-century. The bipartisan measure has become law every year for more than 50 years. The House passed the bill last week, 269 to 151, with enough Democratic votes to sustain a presidential veto.

Obama says he'll veto it because while it contains all the money he requested, he doesn't like the way Congress did it. The bill increases defense spending by padding a separate war-fighting account with an extra \$38 billion. Congress didn't increase money for domestic agencies too as the president wants. If the veto is sustained, Congress would be forced to revise the bill or try to settle

the larger budget dispute. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, said the president's desire to veto the bill is "outrageous" in the light of national security threats. "I wish I could say it surprised me that President Obama might — for the sake of unrelated partisan games — actually contemplate vetoing a bipartisan defense bill that contains the level of funding authorization he asked for," McConnell said on the Senate floor. "I'm calling on him not to, especially in times like these."

Jack Reed, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said it was a good bill. He cited 60 provisions aimed at helping streamline defense acquisitions. He said other parts of the bill would help the Defense Department keep pace with changing technology, combat cyberattacks and provides key funding for the war in Afghanistan, the fight against Islamic State militants and Ukraine forces fighting Russian-backed rebels.

But he said he could not support it because it increases the war-fighting account, raising defense

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Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington. McConnell, a Republican, said the president's desire to veto a sweeping \$612 billion U.S. defense policy bill is "outrageous" in the light of national security threats.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

spending by doing an end-run around the spending caps.

Adding funds to the account for Overseas Contingency Operations complicates defense spending, he said. It does not provide funds for many of the domestic agencies, such as the FBI, Coast Guard, Justice Department, because they remain subject to the spending caps.

"Defense budgeting needs to be based on our long-term military strategy," he said. "A one year plus-up" to the special account does not provide the Pentagon "with the certainty and stability it needs when building its five-year budget."

After the vote, House Speaker John Boehner issued a statement pressuring Obama to sign the bill. Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed

Services Committee, and Rep. Mac Thornberry, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, called a news conference to try to convince Obama to sign it.

"I continue to hope that the president just won't veto it — that there will be sufficient pressures on him that he won't veto," McCain said.

Thornberry said he too hoped the president would reconsider his veto, especially in light of the strong votes of support in both chambers.

"There has been a total of four vetoes in the past 53 years ... every one of them were because of something that was in the bill, not because of something that was outside the bill, which is the thing that the president is complaining about today," Thornberry said. □

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Clinton Opposes Obama's Signature Pacific Trade Deal

LISA LERER
CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press
MOUNT VERNON, Iowa (AP)

— Hillary Rodham Clinton declared her opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade accord on Wednesday, her most significant break with President Barack Obama since launching her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. "I think there are still a lot of unanswered questions," she said of the big trade deal in an interview with PBS' "Newshour." "As of today, I am not in favor of what I have learned about it."

Her push-back against the chief economic proposal of Obama's second term is a blow to the president, undermining his arguments to Congress as the White House is in the final stretch of winning approval of a deal years in the making. Clinton joins the rest of the Democratic field in challenging a trade pact that's enraged the labor unions, environmentalists and other liberal constituencies whose support will be crucial to her electoral success.

With several months to go before the primary process starts, Clinton remains the front-runner for her party's nomination.

Her position on the agreement also marks a striking reversal for the former secretary of state, who promoted the deal in dozens

of appearances during Obama's first term in office. During a 2012 trip to Australia, she called it the "gold standard in trade agreements."

The united opposition from the Democratic presidential field leaves Obama in the uncomfortable position of watching a Democratic debate next week in which

Obama and many Republican lawmakers favor the accord, saying it will greatly help the U.S. economy by boosting exports of American products.

shore drilling in the Arctic wasn't "worth the risk" to the environment. She subtly resurrected her 2008 primary attack of Obama's approach to world affairs, taking a more hawkish stance toward Russia, Syria and Iran. And she's promised to work to repeal the "Cadillac tax," a tax on high-cost employer-sponsored insurance that the Obama administration says is necessary to fund the health care law.

On both immigration and gun control, she has also pledged to use executive power as president to do more than Obama.

On immigration, she cited Obama's deportation policy this week and said, "I'm not going to be breaking up families. And I think that is one of the differences."

Still, she added, "I totally understand why the Obama administration felt as though they did what they did under the circumstances."

Campaign veterans in the White House say the impact of Clinton's departures from Obama policies are minor and they dismiss some of her proposals as routine campaign fodder. Candidates use policy plans to declare their priorities. Worries over practical implementation come later.

Many of Clinton's top aides joined her campaign from the White House and the two staffs remain in frequent communication. □



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton holds up a doll that was handed to her from the audience Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015, during a campaign stop at the Westfair Amphitheater in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

(AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

In the interview, Clinton said the agreement does not meet her standard for creating jobs, raising wages and protecting national security. She raised specific concerns about a potential for currency manipulation by China and provisions that she said would benefit pharmaceutical companies at the expense of patients.

"I don't believe it's going to meet the high bar I have set," she said.

none of the major candidates is willing to defend a deal that the White House sees as a key piece of his presidential legacy.

Clinton's chief Democratic rival so far, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has vocally opposed the TPP. Her announcement comes as Vice President Joe Biden considers entering the race, and labor group have warned his support of the pact would hurt his standing with unions.

Clinton's campaign and the Obama administration have always said the time would come when she would outline her own policies and deliver criticisms, implied and direct, of the president.

Last month, she came out against the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry oil from Canada to the U.S. Gulf Coast; the administration remains undecided. In August, she said Obama's decision to approve off-

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Obama apologizes to aid group for US attack on Afghan clinic

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama apologized to Doctors Without Borders on Wednesday for the American air attack that killed at least 22 people at its hospital in Afghanistan, and said the U.S. would examine military procedures to look for better ways to prevent such incidents.

Obama's telephone call to the group's international president, Joanne Liu, came a day after the White House had stopped short of an apology, waiting to learn more while acknowledging that the attack was a U.S. mistake. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama offered condolences to the staff and pledged a "transparent, thorough and objective accounting of the facts."

Liu confirmed the apology and, in a written statement, reiterated her organization's call for the U.S. government to consent to an independent investigation "to establish what happened in Kunduz, how it happened, and why it happened."

"When the United States makes a mistake, we own up to it, we apologize where appropriate, and we are honest about what transpired," Earnest said. He described Obama's apology as "heartfelt."

Emerging details about the erroneous strike have only fueled growing condemnation by Doctors Without Borders and other aid groups in the four days since the clinic in the northern city of Kunduz came under heavy fire that killed a dozen staffers and 10 patients. After initial confusion, officials determined the U.S. had carried out the

strike, an admission that complicates delicate U.S. efforts in Afghanistan as Obama weighs how many troops to leave there.

Obama told Liu that the U.S. would review the attack to determine whether changes to U.S. military procedures could reduce the chances of a similar incident. Obama also spoke with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to convey condolences and praise Afghan forces for securing Kunduz, the White House said. Taliban fighters had seized control of Kunduz for three days last week.

Investigations by the U.S., NATO and the Afghan government are underway, but the medical aid group has called them insufficient and has appealed to the U.S., Afghanistan and other countries to mobilize a commission to look into the tragedy. Without addressing that demand, the White House offered assurances that the Pentagon would dutifully carry out its internal probe.

Doctors Without Borders, known by its French language acronym MSF, has also said the strike may

have been a war crime and has described it as an attack on the Geneva Conventions governing hu-

accountable if necessary. U.S. officials have declined to discuss most circumstances of the blunder,

duz from the Taliban had requested U.S. air power, and that a U.S. special operations unit in the "close



President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015. Obama apologized to Doctors Without Borders president for attack on Afghan medical clinic.
(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

manitarian treatment during war. The White House urged patience while the Pentagon works to establish what transpired.

Asked whether the apology signified U.S. culpability for loss of life, Earnest said individuals would be held

and it's unclear whether the strike exceeded the rules applying to American forces operating in Afghanistan. But the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John F. Campbell, has said Afghan forces fighting to retake Kun-

vicinity" was communicating with the crew of the heavily armed AC-130 gunship that pummeled the hospital.

MSF wants to mobilize the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, based in the Swiss capital,

Woman awarded \$1.6M over DuPont chemical in water

ANDREW HUGGINS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio woman was awarded \$1.6 million Wednesday in the trial of a lawsuit that alleged a chemical from a DuPont Co. plant contaminated drinking water and contributed to her contracting kidney cancer.

A jury awarded the damages to 59-year-old Carla Bartlett of Guysville in one of two cases that could influence thousands of similar lawsuits over the chemical giant's discharge of

perfluorooctanoic acid, also known as C8. The chemical is used to make Teflon. Some 3,500 people say they became ill after the company dumped C8 into the Ohio River and their drinking water from its Washington Works plant near Parkersburg, West Virginia.

The trial, which lasted about three weeks, was the latest development in a yearslong battle between DuPont and residents of the Mid-Ohio Valley in the heart of Appa-

lachia. Bartlett once lived closer to the river. Her lawyer said she was thrilled by the verdict.

"She understands that she did good for the communities all up and down the Ohio River," attorney Mike Papantonio said.

He said the jury decision was vindication for those who argued that C8 is "bio-persistent," referring to its presence in the bloodstream years after contamination.

DuPont, which maintains C8 didn't contribute to

Bartlett's cancer, said it expects to appeal. Company spokesman Gregg Schmidt said the jury decision not to award punitive damages validates the company's position that DuPont never consciously disregarded the risks to people living near the Parkersburg plant.

Schmidt said workers and plant officials drank the same water as residents. Of its eight employees with cancer in 1989, only one had worked at length with C8, he said. □

Oregon gunman killed himself after police wounded him



Douglas County Deputy Sheriff Greg Kennerly, left, and Oregon State Trooper Tom Willis stand guard outside the apartment building where alleged Umpqua Community College gunman Chris Harper Mercer lived with his mother in Roseburg, Ore. The deadly shooting last week has an eerie parallel with the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School that killed 20 pupils and six adult staff members in 2012. Like Adam Lanza, the gunman in the Connecticut massacre, Christopher Harper-Mercer was living a mostly solitary life with a mom who shared his fascination with firearms. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

ROSEBURG, Oregon (AP) — The gunman who fatally shot nine people at an Oregon community college last week killed himself in

front of his victims after two police officers wounded him, authorities said Wednesday.

When two plainclothes detectives spotted Christopher Harper-Mercer in

the doorway of a campus building, he fired at them, and the officers quickly returned fire. The killer then went back inside and shot himself in a classroom where many of his victims

lay dead and wounded, a prosecutor told a news conference.

It was authorities' most detailed account yet of the gunman's death. Previously, they had said only that the 26-year-old attacker killed himself after a shootout.

The detectives arrived within minutes of the first reports of gunfire at Umpqua Community College.

Seconds later, the officers "both felt they had a good target," Douglas County District Attorney Rick Wesenberg said. Two of their bullets hit a wall. A third struck Harper-Mercer on the right side.

The wounded gunman "entered the classroom again, went to the front of the classroom and shot and killed himself," Wesenberg said. The attack in this rural timber town was the worst mass shooting in Oregon history. Eight students and a teacher died. Nine others were wounded.

A private memorial has been held for Lawrence Levine, who was killed while

teaching the class. Another private service was held Wednesday for 44-year-old Sarena Dawn Moore of Myrtle Creek. More funerals are scheduled through Saturday.

President Obama plans to travel to Roseburg on Friday to meet with victims' families. Obama's calls for stricter gun laws in the wake of the shootings did not sit well with many people in this conservative region, where gun ownership is pervasive. Three county commissioners appeared at a news conference Wednesday to try to tamp down any suggestion that Obama was not welcome.

"Regardless of our differences with the president on policy issues, we await the president's arrival and look forward to his show of support for a community who is grieving and whose heartache is immeasurable, especially the families of those killed," said Susan Morgan, chairwoman of the Douglas County Commission, reading from a statement. □

Man pleads guilty to killing 5 relatives with a meat cleaver

MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Chinese immigrant who authorities said butchered five relatives with a meat cleaver, including four small children, will serve at least 125 years in prison after pleading guilty Wednesday to murder and manslaughter charges. Mingdong Chen admitted that he killed his cousin's wife, 37-year-old Qiao Zhen Li, and her children, Linda, 9; Amy, 7; Kevin, 5; and William Zhou, 18 months; in October 2013. The 27-year-old showed no visible reaction as he entered his plea. Under a deal with prosecutors, Chen must serve at least 125 years in prison before becoming eligible for parole.

Prosecutors said Li called her mother-in-law in China on the evening of Oct. 27, 2013, saying Chen was

in the house with a knife and threatening the family. When the mother-in-law heard children crying in the background, she called other relatives in New York who rushed to the home in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood. By the time they arrived, the five relatives were dead and Chen was dripping in blood. Police said the family had been slaughtered, each of the five repeatedly stabbed and slashed in the throat and neck. Their bodies were found strewn about the house. Chen had been staying in their home for about a week before the killings, authorities said.

When detectives questioned him, Chen told them he was jealous of the success of his fellow Chinese immigrants, police said. Relatives said he had been fired from different restaurant jobs. □



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US Financial Front:

Fiat Chrysler, UAW still bargaining as strike threat looms



Assembly line workers build a 2015 Chrysler 200 automobile at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich. The threat of a strike is looming as Fiat Chrysler and the United Auto Workers continue negotiating a new contract.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

TOM KRISHER
DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — The threat of a strike is looming as Fiat Chrysler and the United

Auto Workers continue negotiating a new contract. The union sent FCA a strike notice on Tuesday. Factory workers could walk out as early as 11:59 p.m. EDT

Wednesday.

FCA and the UAW were still negotiating late Wednesday afternoon, according to representatives from both sides.

A strike notice doesn't mean a strike will happen. FCA and the union could reach a new tentative agreement before

the deadline, or the union could put talks with FCA on hold and bargain with Ford Motor Co. or General Motors Co. instead.

If workers do strike, the UAW could call off workers only at some key plants or it could order a strike at all of FCA's 23 U.S. plants. The UAW represents around

40,000 factory workers in the U.S.

FCA workers haven't gone on strike since 2007, when workers walked off the job for seven hours during contract negotiations. In 2011, they were prohibited from striking under terms of FCA's government-funded bankruptcy. □

US consumer borrowing climbs to new record in August: report

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer borrowing advanced at a solid pace in August, as Americans took out more auto and student loans.

The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that consumer borrowing rose by \$16 billion in August, pushing the total to a fresh record of \$3.47 trillion.

The August advance was slightly below the July gain of \$18.9 billion. In June, credit had soared by \$27.2 billion, the largest increase since November 2001.

Borrowing for car and student loans expanded by \$12 billion in August. Borrowing in the category that covers credit cards rose by \$4 billion.

Economists are forecasting that consumer spending,

which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, will remain strong in the coming months as households remain willing to take on more debt.

A strong consumer sector will help to offset weakness in other parts of the economy. Manufacturing and export sales have been hurt by increased weakness overseas and a higher dollar, which makes U.S. products less competitive on foreign markets.

The overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, expanded at a robust rate of 3.9 percent in the April-June quarter. But many economists believe growth slowed sharply in the July-September quarter to perhaps as low as 1.5 percent, reflecting the impact of a lackluster global economy. □

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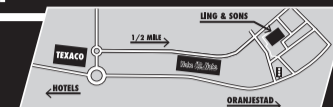
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Germany, France try to turn tide of European skepticism



German Chancellor Angela Merkel gestures as she delivers her speech as part of a joint appearance with French President Francois Hollande, right, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015.

(AP Photo/Michael Probst)

SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press
STRASBOURG, France (AP) — French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in a highly unusual bid to heal divisions within

the EU, urged European lawmakers on Wednesday to pull together to create a stronger Europe to cope with the influx of migrants that is raising tensions and dangerously straining the union.

Merkel spoke of a “test of historic dimensions” and Hollande evoked the “end of Europe” if it is not set right. The separate addresses to the European Parliament in Strasbourg by the most

powerful proponents of European unity underscored the risks now besetting the EU’s 28 nations, including rising nationalism and a new populist fervor.

Those tensions sprang to life within the chamber when a French far-right leader insulted Hollande, addressing him as “Merkel’s vice-chancellor, administrator of the province of France.” Marine Le Pen, who heads a far-right group in parliament seeking increased sovereignty for the 28 member states, told Merkel that “German interests don’t justify turning other people of Europe into vassals.”

The bitter retort after the two leaders’ speeches underscored the encroaching nationalist sentiment within the European Union, fed by the arrival of some half-million migrants.

Hollande said Europe ensures against the “return of nationalism, populism, extremism.”

“If (you) don’t want a stronger Europe ... the only possible path is simply to leave Europe,” Hollande said to a standing ovation.

Merkel told European lawmakers that Europe faces “a test of historic dimensions” with the influx of migrants seeking shelter from war and poverty. She urged “a determined contribution by Europe to resolving these crises.”

Merkel, who has come forward as the champion of refugees flowing into Europe, said overcoming the refugee crisis together is a key challenge for the European Union.

“It is precisely now,” she said, “that we need more Europe ... If we overcome that, we will be stronger after the crisis than before.”

The conservative German Chancellor and the Socialist French president together symbolize the kind of Europe they want to see thrive, in which differences are set aside for the common good.

It was the first such joint appearance in Strasbourg since 1989, when West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Francois Mitterrand spoke days after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The European Union was conceived to end centuries of war through open trade and increased prosperity, and it’s also been a way for Europe to stay globally relevant. Germany and France have played a leading role to keep the 28-nation bloc united despite major differences of views among European leaders.

Since 2014, the EU has faced the Ukrainian conflict at its eastern border, Greece’s resurgent debt crisis, terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels, threats that Britain could leave the EU, and the biggest wave of migrant arrivals since World War II. □

EU to crack down on people refused asylum

LORNE COOK
RAF CASERT
Associated Press
BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union countries are closing in on an agreement Thursday to crack down on migrants who have been refused entry into the bloc so they can be swiftly sent home. A key issue will be to ensure there are tougher measures to put those who have to leave in pre-departure detention to make sure they don’t disappear to live illegally in EU nations. More than 500,000 people have arrived this year seek-

ing sanctuary or jobs, sparking the EU’s biggest refugee emergency in decades. But of people who fail to obtain asylum or residency in the 28-nation EU, less than 40 percent actually go back. It is seen as a major flaw in the EU’s common migration policy. At Thursday’s meeting in Luxembourg, EU interior ministers will agree that “all measures must be taken to ensure irregular migrants’ effective return,” according to a draft statement seen by The Associated Press. Those measures include

the “use of detention as a legitimate measure of last resort.”

The EU has common asylum rules and legislation for returning people not permitted to stay, but the rules have rarely been enforced with any consistency.

With thousands of people arriving daily, border and reception facilities have been stretched to breaking point. Ensuring returns is seen as one way to ease the pressure.

According to the draft statement, EU countries plan to spend more than 800 million euros (\$900 mil-

lion) up until 2020 on returning people who enter Europe illegally.

Better use will be made of Europe’s visa and fingerprint databases and countries will ensure that all decisions to send people home are entered into the Schengen passport-free area’s computer system.

The ministers will welcome a proposal for the Frontex border agency to deploy “rapid return intervention teams,” and give Frontex more powers to organize returns jointly among member nations. □



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Anxious Israelis told to be on alert amid wave of attacks

TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian assailants carried out a series of stabbings across Israel on Wednesday, jolting an anxious country unnerved by weeks of unrest as clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian demonstrators raged across the West Bank. The violence forced Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to call off a high-profile visit to Germany and prompted him to tell the nation to be on "alert" for further trouble. And in another sign of the tensions, Jerusalem's mayor, Nir Barkat, was seen carrying an assault rifle while visiting an Arab neighborhood. The unrest began three weeks ago and has spread from the confines of a sensitive Jerusalem holy site to spots across Israel and the West Bank. In Wednesday's violence, stabbings occurred outside a crowded mall in central Israel, in a southern Israeli town and in the Old City of Jerusalem. Israeli forces shot two of the attackers, killing one, while a third was arrested. No Israelis were seriously



Israeli police officers stand guard as medics evacuate a wounded Palestinian woman following a stabbing attack in Jerusalem Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015. The woman stabbed an Israeli man who then shot and wounded her in Jerusalem's Old City on Wednesday after some of the tight security measures imposed following a series of deadly Palestinian attacks were lifted, police said.
(AP Photo/Olivier Fitoussi)

hurt. Another Palestinian was wounded when he was shot by police after he attempted to run over an officer at a West Bank checkpoint, police said. Netanyahu has threatened a tough response to the violence, and Israel has beefed up security in Jerusalem and the West

Bank. It also briefly barred non-resident Palestinians from entering the Old City, home to sensitive holy sites. That ban was lifted shortly before Wednesday's stabbing. In all, four Israelis have been killed in stabbings and a roadside shooting in recent days, while five Pal-

estinians, including three attackers, have been killed. With the attacks spilling into the Israeli heartland, Netanyahu warned Israelis to be on guard. "Citizens are at the forefront of the war against terrorism and must also be on maximum alert," Netan-

yahu said, after a meeting with top police officials. Barkat, the Jerusalem mayor, defended his decision to carry a rifle while visiting an Arab neighborhood in east Jerusalem on Monday night. His office said he was a former military officer and licensed to carry the weapon. "Many terror attacks in Jerusalem have been prevented or neutralized due to the quick actions and response of responsible bystanders," it said, noting that earlier this year, the mayor helped stop a knife-wielding Palestinian attacker. Adnan Husseini, the top Palestinian official for Jerusalem, called Barkat's armed appearance "a declaration of war" on Palestinian residents of the city. "It's incitement for other Israelis to do the same," he said. In the attack outside the mall, which occurred in the city of Petah Tikva, police said civilians apprehended the suspected Palestinian assailant after he stabbed and slightly wounded a man. □

Battling IS, Iraqi Kurdish fighters exposed to mustard gas

BRAM JANSSEN
VIVIAN SALAMA
Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — Several Iraqi Kurdish troops tested positive for mustard gas after battles this summer with the Islamic State group in northern Iraq, a spokesman for the paramilitary group said Wednesday. Blood samples from the Kurdish peshmerga fighters sent to a Baghdad lab revealed traces of the toxic gas, the spokesman, Jabar Yawar told The Associated Press. The exposure took

place during the battles along the front lines near the northern Iraqi towns of Makhmour and Gwer, he said. The blood tests raise the specter that IS used mustard gas in fighting the peshmerga forces. If confirmed, it would be the latest chemical agent apparently procured and used by the extremist Islamic State in the war. In March, Kurdish authorities in Iraq said they had evidence that the militant IS group used chlorine gas

as a chemical weapon against its fighters. The allegation by the Kurdistan Region Security Council, stemming from a Jan. 23 suicide truck bomb attack in northern Iraq, followed similar allegations about the militants using the low-grade chemical weapons against Iraqi security forces as well as on Kurdish fighters in Syria. Iraqi Kurdish troops, trained and helped by American advisers, took the lead in battling IS after the extremist group blitzed across

much of northern Iraq last year. Iraqi government forces and allied Shiite militias have since joined the fight, backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes. Yawar said forces from the U.S.-led coalition also took blood and soil samples in the same area and that those also tested positive. However, according to Army Col. Steven Warren, the spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, "the field test was not conclusive." He added that "testing will be done off-site in a

gold-standard laboratory." "We continue to monitor reports of chemical weapon use closely and stress that any use of chemicals or biological material as a weapon would be further evidence of ISIL's barbarity," Warren added, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. According to a statement Wednesday from the peshmerga force, the Islamic State militants fired some 50 mortar rounds on Iraqi Kurdish positions on Aug. 11. □

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Nepal government, protesters discuss size of states

B. GURUBACHARYA

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)

— Negotiators from Nepal's government and the main group protesting the country's new constitution discussed the main issue of the size of proposed states on Wednesday, but said little progress was made in their second day of talks.

The United Democratic Madhesi Front insisted on immediate changes to the size of the states specified in the constitution, while government negotiators said changes could only be made through an appropriate legal process.

Both sides agreed to meet again Friday.

The constitution approved last month divides Nepal into seven new states, with some borders slicing through the Madhesi's ancestral homeland in the southern plains along the border with India. Ethnic Madhesi, along with several other small ethnic groups, want the states to be larger and to be given more autonomy over local matters.

"They have said the state is the main issue on which we need to reach an agree-



Laxman Lal Karna from the United Democratic Madhesi Front talks to the media after talks with government negotiators in Kathmandu, Nepal.
(AP Photo/ Niranjan Shrestha)

ment, but we told them that this needs to be done through a process following the constitution," government minister Mahesh Acharya told reporters. Acharya said changes to the seven states can only be made by a commission that needs to be set up.

"The government or a party is not able to take such a decision right away on the state issue. It is a serious political matter," Acharya said.

The United Democratic

Madhesi Front said it was happy that progress on some of its demands was made. Prime Minister Sushil Koirala visited wounded protesters at a hospital Tuesday and ordered free treatment for them.

However, they said they could not end their protests near the border until progress is made on their main political demand.

The protests have left more than 45 people dead, and an unofficial blockade related to the protests has

halted the flow of fuel and supplies to the country's north, including the capital.

The Madhesi want the entire south and south-eastern region where they live to be their state, absorbing chunks of territory from other proposed states. They also say the region's population is thick enough to add more constituencies, which would mean more of their people would be elected to the parliament. □

Suu Kyi claims will lead government if party wins polls

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)

— Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Wednesday if her party wins upcoming elections she will lead the country from behind the scenes — circumventing a clause in the constitution that bars her from the presidency.

If the Nov. 8 vote is credible, most observers believe Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party will win the most seats in the country's parliament.

By forming a coalition with smaller parties, it could control a majority.

A clause in the 2008 constitution, drafted when the country was under military rule, prevents Suu Kyi from taking the top job because her late husband and two children are British nationals.

There are no obvious alternatives within her party's ranks.

"I've made it quite clear that if the NLD wins the elections and we form a government, I'm going to be the leader of that government whether or not I'm the president," Suu Kyi told Indian television channel IndiaToday TV.

"Why not?" she asked with a smile. "Do you have to be a president in order to lead a country?"

Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist nation, began moving from a half-century of military rule toward democracy in 2011. Though there are many concerns — including the exclusion of ethnic Rohingya Muslims from the process and irregularities in voting lists — most observers believe next month's elections are the country's best chance in decades for relatively free and credible polls. □

Seoul questions NYU student over North Korea trip

KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— South Korean prosecutors are investigating a New York University student freed this week by North Korea on suspicion that he violated a law that prohibits South Korean citizens from traveling to the North without permission, officials said Wednesday.

The student, Won Moon Joo, a South Korean national, was questioned by Seoul's National Intel-

ligence Service upon his arrival in South Korea on Monday. The investigation is now being directed by prosecutors for possible indictment, according to an official from the spy agency who didn't want to be identified, citing office rules.

Joo, 21, was detained in North Korea for about six months after being arrested for crossing the Chinese border into the North.

South Korea's National Security Law prohibits citizens

from praising North Korea or from visiting the country without approval. Joo, who has permanent residency status in the United States, was one of four South Koreans known to be held in North Korea. The three who remain there are accused of serious charges such as espionage or attempts to establish underground churches in the country.

North Korea often uses detainees in attempts to win political concessions and

aid from rivals Seoul and Washington. Its decision to release Joo, whose alleged crime was relatively minor, is a possible indicator that it wants better ties with Seoul and may back away from a recent threat to launch a long-range rocket later this month, South Korean analysts said. The two Koreas are still technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. □

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IMF sees recession for Latin America on commodities shock

JOSHUA GOODMAN
 Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Latin America's economy is expected to enter recession this year for the first time since the end of the global financial crisis as China's slowdown drives lower demand for the region's commodities, threatening to undo recent progress in reducing poverty, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

The Washington-based lender, in a report released its annual meetings being held in Peru, said that the rate of economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean was set to decline for the fifth consecutive year before rebounding in 2016.

Pulled down by a deep recession in Brazil and Venezuela, two of South America's largest economies, and by a smaller contraction in oil-dependent Ecuador, the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean are expected to shrink by 0.3 percent this year.

While a stronger U.S. economy and lower commodity prices should help manufacturers in Mexico, Central America and the oil-importing countries of the Caribbean, the biggest economies in South America, about half of whose exports are natural resources, are likely to suffer a protracted slump, the IMF said. Venezuela's economy is expected to buckle by a whopping 10 percent even as it copes with widespread shortages and the world's highest inflation, around 200 percent, the IMF said. □

Honduran businessman accused of money laundering

F. CUEVAS
C. SHERMAN

Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — One of Honduras's most powerful businessmen has been indicted in the United States for allegedly laundering money for drug traffickers.

The U.S. Justice Department released a statement Wednesday saying that Jaime Rolando Rosenthal Oliva, his son Yani Benjamin Rosenthal and nephew Yankel Rosenthal, as well as seven businesses were labeled "specially designated narcotics traffickers" under the Kingpin Act.

Yankel Rosenthal was arrested Tuesday at Miami's airport. A call to his attorney in Miami was not immediately returned.

The statement said they "provide money laundering and other services that support the international narcotics trafficking activities of multiple Central American drug traffickers



In this 2012 photo, Yani Rosenthal walks with his wife Claudia in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The U.S. Justice Department released a statement Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015, saying that Jaime Rolando Rosenthal Oliva, his son Yani Benjamin Rosenthal and nephew Yankel Rosenthal, as well as seven businesses were labeled "specially designated narcotics traffickers" under the Kingpin Act. (AP Photo/Fernando Antonio)

and their criminal organizations."

Jaime Rosenthal heads Grupo Continental, a sprawling collection of

businesses ranging from a bank to a meatpacker and is a four-time presidential candidate. A senior U.S. Treasury Department of-

ficial, who requested anonymity to speak about the case, said that it was the first time the Kingpin Act had been used against a foreign bank.

The official called it "one of the most significant money laundering networks in Central America."

"The Rosenthals have in the past used their immense and ill-gotten wealth to obtain political influence and to provide services to a number of Central American drug traffickers and their criminal organizations," the official said. All of their assets in the U.S. have been blocked so that no U.S. citizens may do business with them or their companies anywhere in the world.

Aggressive interdiction efforts in the Caribbean pushed cocaine trafficking into Central America, overwhelming small countries with histories of political instability and without the resources to combat it. □

IMF:

Up to \$3T in over-borrowing in emerging markets

FRANK BAJAK
 Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The biggest risks to the global economy are now in emerging markets, where private companies have racked up considerable debt amid a fifth straight year of slowing growth, the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday.

"We estimate that there is up to \$3 trillion in over-borrowing in emerging markets," Jose Vinals, a top IMF official, said in presenting the body's Global

Financial Stability report at its annual meeting.

He told reporters that an unprecedented lending spree has come to an end with the plunge in prices for oil, minerals and other commodities that economists attribute to China's slowdown.

The risk is that shocks from bankruptcies in the developing world's private sector, particularly in heavily commodities-dependent Latin American economies, could be amplified in global financial markets.

The worst-case scenario, said Vinals, is "a vicious cycle of fire sales and volatility."

Vinals said over-borrowing in China, where an August devaluation sent global markets reeling, amounts to nearly 25 percent of the Asian power's economic output and will need to be managed gingerly.

Seven years after the global recession, he said advanced economies still need to address remaining legacies of the crisis.

For European banks, that

means getting rid of some 900 billion euros worth of bad loans that Vinals called a continuing drag on the region's economy. Once removed from balance sheets, the report estimates, two-thirds of that amount would be freed up for new lending.

Vinals, director of the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets Department, said the fund does not yet consider it time for the U.S. Federal Reserve to raise interest rates, which have been near zero since the crisis. □

US official says Cuba should develop private sector

HAVANA (AP) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker on Wednesday called on the Cuban government to let private enterprise thrive on the communist-ruled island and to grant its citizens greater access to the Internet. Pritzker was visiting Cuba for two days, leading a delegation of officials from the U.S. Treasury, Commerce and State departments for meetings with officials from Cuban government ministries and businesses.

She started her visit Tuesday with a stop at the Mariel free trade zone outside the capital of Havana. The commerce secretary is the most senior U.S. official to travel to Cuba since Secretary of State John Kerry visited on Aug. 14 for a flag-raising ceremony outside the U.S. diplomatic mission in Havana, which is now upgraded to a full embassy following restoration of relations in July. "We urge President Castro and his government to

make it easier for Cuban citizens to trade and travel more freely, to enjoy the fruits of their labor, to access the Internet and to (be) hired directly by foreign companies," she said Wednesday at the start of meetings between officials from both countries. Since the Dec. 17 announcement that the former Cold War foes would work toward normalization of relations, the Obama administration has eased some economic restrictions

on Cuba. A trade embargo remains in place under U.S. law, but Obama is now allowing U.S. firms to send supplies to private Cuban businesses and export telephones, computers and Internet technology. The U.S. government has also eliminated the previous limit on remittances that people can send to relatives on the island, among other measures. The impact of those moves, Pritzker said, "will depend on the Cuban government

also taking steps to update its regulatory system and reform the economy in ways that support continued development of the Cuban private sector and increase the prosperity of the Cuban people." Cuba's foreign ministry said in a statement that the goal of the meetings is an "exchange over the reach and limitations of the measures recently taken by the U.S. government to modify some aspects of the application of the embargo against Cuba." □

Kerry pays visit to Haiti to discuss election preparations



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, center, shakes hand with Haiti's President Michel Martelly at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Kerry stopped briefly in Haiti to discuss preparations for the country's upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry stopped in Haiti's capital on Tuesday to discuss preparations for the

country's upcoming elections and encourage people to refrain from disrupting balloting after a messy parliamentary first round in August. In some districts, legislative elections held Aug. 9

were so plagued with disorder and voter intimidation that makeup elections will have to be held in more than two dozen constituencies. Monitors with the Organization of American

States said the irregularities were not enough to invalidate overall results. "Haiti needs governing institutions that are legitimate and representative, and those cannot come into being without free and fair elections that take part without intimidation, without violence," Kerry said on the grounds of Haiti's National Palace in Port-au-Prince. Haiti will hold its first round of presidential elections on Oct. 25 at the same time as runoffs for legislative seats. With none of the 54 presidential candidates likely to dominate voting, this month's election is expected to force the two highest vote-getters into a Dec. 27 runoff to become Haiti's next leader. With outgoing President Michel Martelly at his side, Kerry encouraged Haitians to listen to those candidates who offer "real plans" to advance the country, noting there needs to be confidence in the political system to help attract invest-

ment and jobs. He said the U.S. and the rest of the international community hope that the Oct. 25 elections will be a "smoother process" than what took place in August. In a Caribbean country that has undergone more than 30 coups in 200 years, Kerry stressed that it was only through holding elections that a "legitimate transfer of power can take place." Martelly thanked Kerry for Washington's support with helping to finance elections, strengthen the roughly 12,000-member national police force and boost the chronically struggling economy. The U.S. is Haiti's largest international donor, providing more than \$30 million to support this year's electoral process alone. Acknowledging that the Aug. 9 elections were "far from perfect," Martelly said that the upcoming vote on Oct. 25 "should be better" organized by election authorities. □

37 accused of smuggling drugs through Puerto Rico's airport

DANICA COTO
Associated Press
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Federal authorities issued arrest warrants on Wednesday for 37 Puerto Ricans they say ran a ring that smuggled drugs on commercial flights from the island to the U.S. mainland. The group is accused of transporting 180 kilograms (397 pounds) of cocaine to places including Orlan-

do, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Connecticut. U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez said the group is accused of making at least 40 trips originating from Puerto Rico's main international airport and paying drug mules to hide vacuum-packed cocaine in suitcases since May 2013. Prosecutors said the couriers would receive anywhere from \$200 to \$1,500 per suitcase,

and that they often carried cash on their trips back to Puerto Rico. So far, no airline employees or airport workers appear to be involved, Rodriguez said, though the investigation is continuing. One suspect was arrested in Orlando and at least 28 were arrested in Puerto Rico as of Wednesday afternoon, authorities said. The arrests come after an

investigation that began in December 2014 with the cooperation of some couriers, said James Doby, acting special agent in charge of the Caribbean division of the Drug Enforcement Administration. The operation, dubbed "Bad Trip," comes roughly three years after federal authorities raided Puerto Rico's main airport and arrested more than 30 people accused

of smuggling millions of dollars' worth of drugs on commercial flights. Among the accused were former airline employees. Puerto Rico Public Affairs Secretary Jesus Manuel Ortiz said this week that cocaine seizures so far this year are up by 63 percent, heroin seizures by 100 percent and marijuana seizures by more than 150 percent compared with all of last year. □



Loyal Visitors Honored at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort as Ambassadors of Goodwill and Emerald Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is

presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-to-34 and 35-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. George and Mr. Gertrude Bordua of Thompson, Connecticut, Mr. Rosario and

Mrs. Vincenza Balsamo of Ontario, Canada, Mr. John and Mrs. Sharon Ahern of Windsor, Connecticut, and Mr. Michael and Mrs. Gloria Friedman from New York, New York. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba

very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, the Casinos, and just about everything else! They say Aruba feels like a second home where the people are like family to them, and the Divi Phoenix is truly their 'home-away-

from-home. ' The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with staff members and General Manager Gerit Griffith of the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort. □

Loyal Visitors Honored at the Costa Linda Beach Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a pair of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Costa Linda Beach Resort as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba

for 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Jim and Mrs. Jeanette Whelan from Connecticut. Jim and Jeanette are loyal members of the Costa Linda and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, the Casinos, and just about everything else! They say

Aruba feels like a second home where the people are like family to them, and the Costa Linda is truly their 'home-away-from-home.' The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with family, friends and staff members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort. □

Loyal Visitors Honored at the Playa Linda Beach Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a pair of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Playa Linda Beach Resort as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba

for 20-to-34 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. George and Mrs. Joan Lang from New York. George and Joan are loyal members of the Playa Linda and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, the Casinos, and just about everything else!

They say Aruba feels like a second home where the people are like family to them, and the Playa Linda is truly their 'home-away-from-home.' The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with staff members and Yvette Tromp of the Playa Linda Beach Resort. □

In the Renaissance Marketplace:

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ORANJESTAD - Sidebar is unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome young and old! Sidebar is the place that serves the best burgers on the island and even has vegetarian food. Dutch owners Niels Stooter, his manager Kim d'Hont, together with their team are waiting to serve you the diner of your dreams!

Common ground and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere.

Side Bar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy! One of the guests was overheard remarking: "I was wondering how one could find niche for a new restaurant on Aruba, but I believe Niels has found it with Sidebar. The combination gourmet burger and aged Bourbons is one that we don't have yet on the island. This bistro is going to soar." Others agreed and they added that the food, atmosphere and the staff is absolutely terrific! ☐



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ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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NFL approves more international games, some outside England

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL's appetite for international games is growing.

The league's owners approved more such games through 2025 on Wednesday, including ones in places other than England — possibly Mexico, Germany and Canada.

"We think it's time to expand our international series to other countries and respond to the growing interest in our game not only in the U.K., but elsewhere around the world," Commissioner Roger Goodell said.

So not only was the agreement for games in Britain extended through 2016, but other nations will be considered as well. Mexico, where one regular-season game was played in 2005 and drew a record attendance of 103,467, is a front-runner for next year.

"That's our biggest fan base, our most vibrant market," said Mark Waller, the league's vice president/international. "It would be a logical place to start."

The NFL will announce the 2016 international games this fall. Three games are at London's Wembley Stadium this season for the second straight year, and that number could be increased.

"We haven't committed to any games in London, but it would be a big surprise to me if we went backward," Waller said. "We have great momentum. We sold out three games there. I'd be shocked if we didn't play three games. ... We could've played four this year."

Continued on Page 18

ASTROLAND

Upstart Astros outshine star-driven Yankees

Houston Astros' Carlos Gomez (30) reacts after crossing home plate after hitting a solo-home run against the New York Yankees during the fourth inning of the American League wild card baseball game, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press
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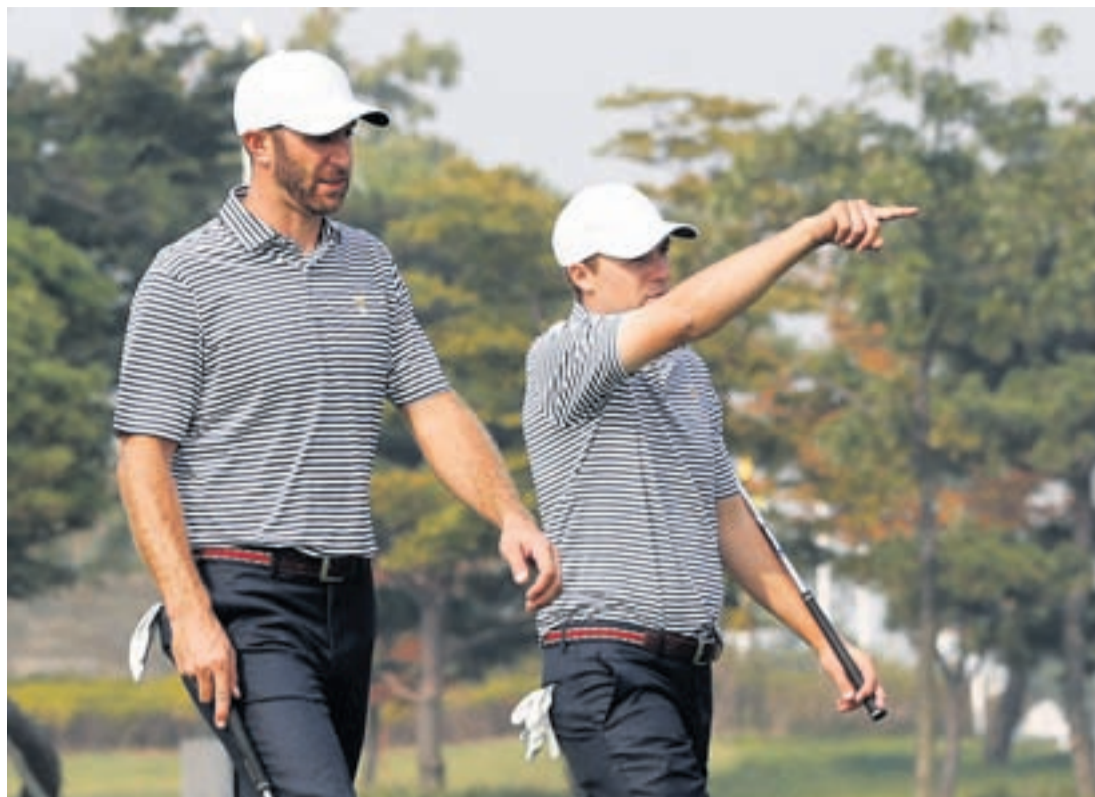
Spieth, Dustin Johnson partners in Presidents Cup

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

INCHEON, South Korea (AP) — Jordan Spieth and Dustin Johnson battled at Chambers Bay in the U.S. Open. They will be partners in South Korea at the Presidents Cup.

U.S. captain Jay Haas saved Spieth and Johnson for the anchor match of foursomes Thursday when the Presidents Cup begins at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea. They will face Marc Leishman of Australia and Danny Lee of New Zealand.

Lee was born in Seoul before moving as a child. He will be the only Korean-born player to compete in the opening session, the first Presidents Cup held in Asia. Sangmoon Bae, who is returning home and will begin his 21-month mandatory military service after the matches, was held out because his partner, Charl Schwartzel, is still weak from a virus. Spieth won the U.S. Open by one shot when Johnson three-putted from 12 feet on the final hole. Haas said they asked to play together in the Presidents Cup, and it was an



United States' Jordan Spieth, right, gestures as he walks a fairway with teammate Dustin Johnson during their final practice round ahead of the Presidents Cup golf tournament at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea, in Incheon, South Korea, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015.

Associated Press

easy choice for the captain. "They have been wanting this pairing," Haas said. "And what Jordan wants, Jordan gets right now. So that was our thinking there." Spieth has dominated golf this year with two majors victories, three other PGA Tour wins, a sweep of

all the major awards and the No. 1 ranking. He had a successful partnership with Patrick Reed in the Ryder Cup last year by going 2-0-1. Reed is playing with Matt Kuchar on Thursday against Louis Oosthuizen and Branden Grace of South Africa. The last time Johnson was

in a team event, the 2012 Ryder Cup, he and Kuchar won both their matches together at Medinah. Haas said a Reed-Spieth pairing is possible later in the week. "Matt is pretty easy to be with," Haas said. "Patrick loves the match play aspect of it and certainly

wants Jordan at some time during the course of the matches. But again, we wanted to get Jordan what he wanted here early on, and maybe that can happen down the road."

In other opening matches: — Adam Scott and Hideki Matsuyama, who went 1-2-1 in all four matches at Muirfield Village two years ago, will lead off against Bubba Watson and J.B. Holmes.

— Jimmy Walker and Rickie Fowler, 0-1-3 in their partnership at the Ryder Cup last year, face Anirban Lahiri and Thongchai Jaidee.

— Jason Day and Steven Bowditch put Aussie pride on the line against Phil Mickelson and Zach Johnson. The format has changed this year to eliminate four matches, meaning each team had to sit two players in the opening session for the first time since 2000. Haas sat out his son, Bill Haas, and Chris Kirk. International captain Nick Price's decision was easier because of Schwartzel, who was in bed Wednesday morning during the final day of practice. □

Continued from Page 17

Earlier this year, the NFL agreed with English Premier League club Tottenham to play at least two games a season at its new stadium in north London, which is scheduled to open in 2018.



In this Oct. 2, 2005 file photo, a fan wearing a sombrero blows a horn outside of the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City, Mexico, before the start of the first regular-season NFL game between the Arizona Cardinals and 49ers.

Associated Press

That is a 10-year deal. Regular-season international games began in 2007 at Wembley. One game per year was played until 2013, when the league increased it to two.

Now other locales very much are in play. "The great news now is that we have the ability to go look at all geographies," Waller said. "We've been very clear that our priority

after getting the UK up and running is Mexico and potentially Germany, so that's where our focus is. Mexico we are hugely excited about, always have been, at least since 2005."

Cowboys executive Stephen Jones said his team would be interested in playing in Mexico City, but not if it meant giving up a home game.

"We'd like to see if we can add a game in a new country for 2016,"

Waller added. "That's our goal. We'll definitely continue the U.K. focus."

The league also is looking at Canada — Toronto and Vancouver, British Columbia — and several cities in Germany have expressed interest.

Waller said the NFL would not place international series games in two countries other than the United Kingdom next year.

The league also is looking at moving the Pro Bowl

outside the U.S. Brazil has expressed interest in the all-star game, and Waller said Australia, South Africa and Asia also were potential sites, but probably not before early 2018.

"You could realistically look at taking that almost anywhere in the world where it's appealing," Waller said. "It's hard to imagine taking a regular-season game to Australia or

Asia or the Far East because how would you make the logistics work and then be competitive?"

"But the great thing about the Pro Bowl is that it's a celebration of the end of the season,

so we are much more open to where in the world would it be fantastic for players to go and celebrate the end of the season. Rio would be great.

South Africa would be great. Australia would be great. It's a very different animal." □



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Fowles, Lynx pull out tense Game 2, even Finals 1-1

JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Basketball Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota beat Indiana 77-71 on Tuesday to level the best-of-five WNBA Finals series at 1-1, led by 21 points and nine rebounds from Sylvia Fowles.

Fowles made 10 of 13 shots and Maya Moore added 19 points and eight boards for the Lynx, who are looking for their third championship in five years.

Briann January scored 17 points and Tamika Catchings had 11 points, nine rebounds and five assists for the Fever, who nearly won their second straight game on the road to open this rematch of the 2012 series won by Indiana.

Game 3 is Friday in Indianapolis.

Seimone Augustus scored 11 points on 5-for-14 shooting and the Lynx outscored the Fever 21-8 on second-

chance points after losing that category 22-12 in the opener.

With Fowles' size too much for Indiana to handle down low, the Lynx played with a desperation that was fitting after they got bullied in the opener. The Fever took Game 1 of the series in 2012 to lay the groundwork for the run to the franchise's first championship, and the Lynx knew a 2-0 deficit would be incredibly difficult to overcome.

They trailed by eight points in the third quarter, but when Catchings had to go to the bench with her fifth foul, they pounced.

Just 2 for 7 in the first 25 minutes of the game, Moore scored six points in under two minutes, assisted on two more buckets and grabbed a key rebound off of a missed free throw to spark a 17-5 run that closed



Minnesota Lynx center Sylvia Fowles (34) passes through Indiana Fever guard Shavonte Zellous (1) and Tamika Catchings (24) in the second half of Game 2 of the WNBA basketball finals, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, in Minneapolis.

the third quarter and gave the Lynx a 63-59 lead. Moore scored eight of Minnesota's 14 points in the

fourth quarter to push Indiana back. Despite the loss, the Fever return home for Games 3

and 4 with the chance to close out the series without having to come back to Minnesota. □

Associated Press

Astros beat Yankees 3-0 in a wild-card game

HOWIE RUMBERG
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) -- A year ago, no one could've pictured this. Yet here they were, Dallas Keuchel and the Houston Astros, soaking in champagne, merrily posing for a victory shot on the mound at Yankee Stadium. After all that losing, this was one October win to remember.

Pitching on three days' rest for the first time in his career, Keuchel baffled New York for six innings of three-hit ball. Colby Rasmus and Carlos Gomez homered, and the Astros beat the Yankees 3-0 Tuesday night in the American League wild-card game.

"Nobody really gave us anything at the start of the year. And I don't think anybody gave us a shot at the end of the year," said Keuchel, the AL's only 20-game winner.

The orange-clad Astros, who secured their spot in this winner-take-all game on the last day of the regular season, advanced to the Division Series against the defending AL champion Royals starting Thursday night in Kansas City.

Aggressive from the start in their initial playoff appearance as an AL club - and first since being swept by the White Sox in the 2005 World Series - the Astros came out swinging against Masahiro Tanaka in front of a revved-up Bronx crowd. Rasmus sent Tanaka's first pitch of the second inning soaring into deep right field. Gomez, who only had five plate appearances after missing nearly two weeks with a strained chest muscle in mid-September, connected on the first offering of the fourth.

"That really settled me down, and that's who we are," Keuchel said. "We hit a lot of home runs, pitch well and play defense."

AL hits leader Jose Altuve had an RBI single off All-Star reliever Dellin Betances in the seventh.

Reliever Tony Sipp walked one, and Will Harris and



Houston Astros' Carlos Gomez, left, and Evan Gattis joke around during player introductions before the start of the American League wild card baseball game against the New York Yankees, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

Luke Gregerson were each perfect for an inning to finish the three-hitter. The boos from the 50,113 stunned fans in the crowd grew with each out as Gregerson closed for a save.

The Astros raced to an area between first and second after Brian McCann grounded out to end it and jumped up and down in a big scrum. As he was coming off the field, Keuchel pumped his fists toward a group of cheering Astros supporters in orange shirts - a few in big black beards - behind the visiting dugout. It was a celebration a few years in the making, a raucous 30-minute party in the visiting clubhouse that carried onto the field. The Astros had averaged 104 losses in their previous four seasons.

"Now we get to go to Kansas City. It's going to be some grind-it-out baseball," Rasmus said. "We have to come in there the way we came in tonight. It's going

to be fun."

In a matchup of teams that surprised many by building big division leads and then wasting them, the upstart Astros, just two years removed from a 111-loss season, looked the more comfortable team in the October limelight.

They clowned around during pregame introductions, and stayed loose the whole game.

The Yankees lost six of seven to close the regular season. Then before working out Monday, they learned CC Sabathia was checking into an alcohol rehab facility and would miss the postseason.

Despite all the talk of a playoff reset for the struggling lineup, New York went bust against a new nemesis in its first postseason game of the post-Derek Jeter era. "Just didn't get it done," manager Joe Girardi said. Fans taunted the 27-year-old Keuchel the moment he walked to the outfield

for warmups. Then he toyed with the Yankees from the first batter, striking out Brett Gardner looking.

"It's hard not to get up for a game like this," Keuchel said of pitching on short rest. "I've worked so hard the last four years in the big leagues, especially with rebuilding with our team. I knew if we had a shot, I was going to give everything I possibly could."

Gardner, McCann, Chris Young and Girardi had words with plate umpire Eric Cooper as Keuchel cruised through New York's lineup for the third time this season.

The AL Cy Young Award contender held the Yankees scoreless for 16 innings in two regular-season starts. On this much bigger stage, the lefty was just as confounding, dropping his slider and two-seam fastball seemingly wherever he wanted in striking out seven as nearly all his teammates and coaches stood along

the dugout railing for every pitch.

When he gave up two singles in the sixth - bringing the crowd to its feet with Alex Rodriguez stepping into the batter's box - manager A.J. Hinch took a walk to the mound to give Keuchel a breather. Keuchel responded by getting A-Rod to fly out lazily to center field for his final out. "He was as good as it gets," A-Rod said. "He was Greg Maddux from the left side."

Keuchel is the first pitcher with a scoreless postseason start on three days' rest since Josh Beckett pitched a shutout for the Marlins at Yankee Stadium in the clinching Game 6 of the 2003 World Series, STATS said.

Tanaka struggled with the long ball, giving up 25 homers in 24 starts this year. He only allowed two more hits in five innings but matched a season high with three walks. □

James Blake: Police watchdog substantiates force complaint

NEW YORK (AP) — Two police officers involved in the mistaken arrest of James Blake, including one who allegedly tackled the former professional tennis player, will face an administrative trial after the city's police watchdog substantiated Blake's excessive force complaint.

Mina Malik, the executive director of the New York City's Civilian Complaint Review Board, said in a letter sent to Blake on Tuesday that investigators had substantiated complaints he made after his Sept. 9 arrest alleging that Officer James Frascatore used excessive force and Detective Daniel Herzog abused his authority.

Surveillance video showed Frascatore approaching Blake in front of the Grand Hyatt New York Hotel in Manhattan and grabbing his arm and roughly taking him to the ground. Police said Blake, who had ranked as high as No. 4 in

the world before retiring from the ATP Tour after the 2013 U.S. Open, had been mistakenly identified as being part of a cellphone fraud scheme. Frascatore had mistaken Blake for a suspect who looked like him, police said.

Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner William Bratton have both apologized to Blake, who has said he believes Frascatore should be fired.

The officer, who has been with the New York Police Department for about four years, had been named in several civil rights lawsuits alleging excessive force. He was placed on desk duty after the encounter with Blake.

"It is my understanding that these officers now face an administrative trial for their roles in the respective offenses," Blake said in a statement Wednesday. "I have complete respect for the principle of due process and appreciate the

efforts of the CCRB to advance this investigation."

A departmental trial could end in disciplinary action or termination.

Malik said Blake's complaint had been resolved in less than 30 days, but she declined to provide further information about the probe, citing state privacy laws. "Our commitment remains to be a fair and vigilant resource for all people who have complaints about police misconduct, and to judge the cases based on thorough, even-handed investigations which serve the public and officers alike," she said. A spokesman for the city's police union had no immediate comment Wednesday evening. But Patrolmen's Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch has said the officers were apprehending someone they "had every reason to believe was an individual who had just committed a crime." □



In this Sept. 11, 2015, file photo, former tennis pro James Blake, right, acknowledges applause during a semifinal match between Roger Federer, of Switzerland, and Stan Wawrinka, of Switzerland, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament, in New York.

Associated Press

WADA keeps thyroid medication off banned-substances list

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

MONTREAL (AP) — Leaders at the World Anti-Doping Agency say there's no scientific reason to ban thyroid medication, despite reports that some high-profile long-distance runners use the medicine during training.

After reports that a number of athletes coached by former Boston and New York City Marathon winner Alberto Salazar take the medication, which can be used as a stimulant and to control weight, the British anti-doping agency and others asked WADA to consider putting it on its banned-substance list. But when the list came out last week, that medicine wasn't on it.

Olivier Rabin, the sci-

ence director at WADA, said Wednesday that because the medicine stops the body from producing its own hormones once they reach a certain level, there's no scientific reason to believe it enhances performance. He called athletes using thyroid medicine an example of the "medicalization of sports."

"That's a reality," Rabin said. "But our job is to draw a line between what is doping and what is not doping."

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency is investigating Salazar, who has been accused of skirting anti-doping rules while training some of his athletes. Among the allegations leveled against Salazar in a story this summer by ProPublica and the BBC was that he told his ath-

letes to get prescriptions for thyroid medication before they started training with him at the Nike Oregon Project.

Among those using the medicine was Galen Rupp, the 2012 Olympic silver medalist at 10,000 meters. In an open letter defending his program, Salazar said Rupp is one of five athletes — out of 55 he has coached — who have been diagnosed with thyroid disease.

More than 12 percent of the U.S. population will develop a thyroid condition during their lifetime, according to the American Thyroid Association website. It said women are between five and eight times more likely to develop a condition than men. □

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SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50

THE WALK
JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT | CHARLOTTE LE BON
MON-THURS 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20
FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20 | 12:05
SAT 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

PAN
HUGH JACKMAN | LEVI MILLER
MON-THURS 4:25 | 6:55
FRI 4:25 | 6:55
SAT 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:55
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:25 | 6:55

KNOCK KNOCK
KEANU REEVES | LORENZA IZZO
MON-THURS 9:20
FRI 9:20 | 11:40
SAT 9:20 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 9:20

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2
ADAM SANDLER | ANDY SAMBERG
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:50 | 7:05
SAT, SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05

SICARIO
EMILY BLUNT | BENICIO DEL TORO
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Americans use 2nd-half surge to beat Panama 4-0

PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

COMMERCE CITY, Colo.

(AP) — Sluggish in the first half, the Americans needed some kind of catalyst.

So the team called on Jerome Kiesewetter and Jordan Morris, ending their nights off.

Kiesewetter sparked the offense with a goal and an assist in the second half, and the United States beat Panama 4-0 in CONCACAF Olympic qualifying on a rainy Tuesday.

Already through to the semifinal round, the Americans didn't have much to play for and rested several of their starters. Scoreless at halftime, coach Andi Herzog turned to his bench for a lift, sending in Kiesewetter and Morris.

The U.S. caught a break early in the second half when Panama defender Fidel Escobar knocked in a crossing shot. Kiesewetter then scored about three minutes later and Morris right after that.

Luis Gil wrapped up the scoring by converting a penalty kick, helping the Americans advance out of Group A with a 3-0 record. Canada finished second.



Panama forward Abdiel Arroyo, left, pursues the ball with USA defender Dillon Serna during the first half of a CONCACAF Olympic qualifying soccer match Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, in Commerce City, Colo.

"Overall, in the first half, Panama was not the better team, but created two or three chances," Herzog said. "After halftime with three goals in 10 minutes, we showed them we're the better team."

Next up for the U.S. is an important game Saturday

in Sandy, Utah, where the semifinal winners automatically qualify for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro next summer. The U.S., which failed to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics, will play Mexico or Honduras, which face each other Wednesday night with the winner

taking over the top spot in Group B.

U.S. goalkeeper Ethan Horvath had a rather quiet game as a steady rain fell most of the evening. He probably needed it as well, since he's just arriving from his club team in Norway. Herzog had to all but beg

Horvath's club to allow him to travel to the U.S. for qualifying.

It just so happens that Horvath is from nearby Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

"At the end, I can't make a decision if a player (will play) whether he's born here or not," Herzog said. "For me, it was clear that when Ethan was coming and felt fine, I wanted to start him right away."

Goalkeeper Elieser Powell kept Panama close in the first half with one splendid save after another, including one where he tipped a ball over the crossbar.

Still, the disparity in talent was evident.

"These players have a better future than they have a present," Panama coach Leonardo Pipino said through an interpreter. "We have to work hard, the federation has to work hard, to have something for them to do, a place for them to go."

"If you look at the U.S. and Mexico start lists, you'll see players who play in the MLS, who play in Europe. ... The federation has to work internally to find a place for them to go so they can continue to progress." □

Associated Press



Rafael Nadal of Spain reaches for the ball as he plays against Vasek Pospisil of Canada during their second round men's singles match of the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Stadium in Beijing, Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015.

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Rafael Nadal moved into the quarterfinals of the China Open with a 7-6 (3), 6-4 victory over Canada's Vasek Pospisil on Wednesday.

The third-seeded Spaniard picked up his game considerably following his first-round victory over the 230th-ranked Chinese wild

card Wu Di, during which he was broken four times. Against Pospisil, Nadal only faced one break point — and he saved it.

Also Wednesday, second-seeded Tomas Berdych lost 6-4, 6-4 to Pablo Cuevas in the first round, just two days after winning his first title of the year in the rain-delayed

Nadal beats Pospisil to reach China Open quarters

Shenzhen final.

The second-seeded Berdych, the 2011 China Open champion, will now have to wait at least another week to secure a spot in the eight-player field for the ATP Finals in London. He's currently in fifth place in the standings and has a lead of more than 300 points over his nearest competitor, Kei Nishikori. Berdych said the short turnaround after Monday's final in Shenzhen made it difficult to adjust to the conditions in Beijing.

"There was not really much time to get used to it," he said. "So it's just really a matter of the day, if you are able to deal with it or not. Definitely I was not able to deal with the conditions."

In the women's draw, Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, the fourth seed, advanced to the quarterfinals when Madison Keys retired from their third-round match with a thigh injury. The American lost the first set 6-3 before calling it quits. "This is not the way that I wanted to end up that match," Radwanska said. "But as we all know the year is ending soon and we can see a couple of retirements."

Seven women have retired or withdrawn from matches this week, including top seed Simona Halep and Eugenie Bouchard. Defending champion Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams also decided to skip the tournament, citing

injuries.

Germany's Angelique Kerber moved a step closer to qualifying for the WTA Finals with a dominant 6-2, 6-3 win over Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark. Kerber, who has won four titles this season, can qualify if she reaches the China Open final.

Wozniacki's loss means she is out of contention for the eight-woman field in Singapore.

Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland overcame five double faults to upset seventh-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 to reach the quarterfinals in a nearly 2 1/2 hour match, and Sara Errani of Italy advanced with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over Germany's Andrea Petkovic. □

A guide to watching sports if you don't have cable

TALI ARBEL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's football season, and baseball playoffs are starting. Don't have cable? You can still watch.

With a digital antenna, you get games for free on broadcast networks like Fox, NBC and Univision. Antennas start at \$20. For cable channels, you can always go to a bar.

Online subscriptions are primarily for games that don't involve local teams. Otherwise, games are shown after they are over. Subscriptions aren't cheap, but most cost less than a traditional cable package. Plenty of sites also show sports for free without legal rights to do so. And many people ask friends or relatives who have a cable subscription for a password

team; and playoff games and the Super Bowl. You can also watch the NFL Network channel, which has sports talk shows and reality series as well as games.

LIMITATIONS: Only on Verizon phones.

PRICE: Free for Verizon subscribers.

— **DirecTV's NFL Sunday Ticket.TV**

THE DEAL: Live regular-season games on Sunday afternoons, about a dozen total. You can switch between games that are playing at the same time.

LIMITATIONS: Available only if you can't get DirecTV satellite service where you live, typically apartment buildings, or homes that have signal issues. No local teams. You can stream on only one device at a time. **PRICE:** \$200 on a tablet,



In this Jan. 5, 2015, file photo, Joe Clayton, president and CEO of Dish Network, introduces the Sling TV, a live television streaming service, at a news conference at the International CES in Las Vegas.

a game console or Chromecast. \$360 for access on both. College and graduate students get both options for \$100.

— **NFL GamePass**

THE DEAL: Live audio only. **LIMITATIONS:** Video of regular season and playoffs only after games are over (after all games are done for Sunday afternoons).

PRICE: \$100 for the full season, though prices come down as the season goes on. On mobile devices and computers, Apple TV and Xbox One.

BASEBALL: Playoffs will be shown on Fox, which is a free channel, and TBS, Fox Sports 1 and MLB Network, which are not. You can also access the playoffs online.

— **MLB.TV**

THE DEAL: Live regular-season games. Audio only for postseason, unless you have a cable-subscription password for MLB Network, TBS and Fox.

LIMITATIONS: Home-town team isn't shown live, whether at home or away. Nationally televised games, including the playoffs, are also unavailable live unless you have a password. Otherwise, wait 90 minutes after games end for video.

PRICE: For a full season, \$110 on computers only, \$130 on mobile devices and streaming gadgets as

available three hours after they end.

PRICE: \$200 for all games. \$120 for one out-of-market team's games, though if this team plays your home-town team, you won't get it. \$7 per game. On phones, tablets, computers and streaming devices.

— **TNT OverTime**

THE DEAL: Usually Thursday night regular-season games, and more playoff games.

LIMITATIONS: You can see the court from four different camera angles, but it's not the same view of the action that you'd get on TV.

PRICE: **Free.** On phones, tablets and computers.

MULTIPLE SPORTS: It's like getting cable delivered over the Internet.

— **Dish Network's Sling TV**

THE DEAL: The online service carries ESPN and ESPN2, which show a slew of professional, college and other sports. Other channels for extra fee.



In this Sept. 20, 2015 file photo, Seattle Seahawks' Marshawn Lynch is tripped up by Green Bay Packers' Nick Perry (53) during the first half of an NFL football game, in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

to log in to, say, ESPN's app.

To stay above board, here are options for watching in the U.S. Access outside the U.S. varies.

FOOTBALL: Some websites offer a few free games: One NFL game each for Yahoo and NBC; the Super Bowl and six others for CBS; Verizon customers also get some games on phones. For others, subscriptions are required.

— **Verizon's NFL Mobile**

THE DEAL: Live streaming of regular-season games televised nationally on Sunday, Monday and Thursday nights; Sunday afternoon game for the local

phone or computer, or \$260 on a TV using Roku,



In this June 7, 2015, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, left, shoots against Golden State Warriors forward Marreese Speights during the first half of Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press



In this June 26, 2015, file photo, St. Louis Cardinals' Kolten Wong, left, is tagged out by Chicago Cubs catcher Miguel Montero during the first inning of a baseball game, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

well. The price goes down throughout the season. For an extra \$5, you can get alternative camera angles for some postseason games — not what's shown on TV.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: A streaming subscription is available, but few options for local teams.

— **NBA League Pass**

THE DEAL: Live video during the regular season.

LIMITATIONS: Your home-town team won't be available until three days after the game. Games televised on ABC, ESPN, TNT or NBA TV won't be live, but

LIMITATIONS: If you're on a phone, you can't watch live NFL games, given Verizon's deal with the league. There are also local-market blackouts for baseball and basketball games. Sling works on only one device at a time.

PRICE: \$20 a month for the main package, \$5 extra for soccer-focused channels and \$5 for a "sportsextra" package with SEC Network and other channels. On computers, mobile devices and streaming devices.

Continued on Page 30

Pandora says it will buy Ticketfly for \$450M

MARLEY JAY
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Streaming music company Pandora said Wednesday it is buying ticket seller Ticketfly for \$450 million in a deal the two see changing the way fans find new music and learn about concerts, and artists plan their tours.

Pandora says about 80 million people use its free service every month to listen to music and comedy on their computers and mobile devices. Ticketfly provides ticketing and marketing software for venues and event promoters, making it easier for fans to find and buy tickets.

The combination will allow them harness data generated by their users to tell fans when bands they like are in town and sell them tickets, while steering artists to areas where a lot of

people give a "thumbs up" to their music on Pandora. "We believe this acquisition closes the loop for Pandora by creating a one-stop-shop for artist discovery, marketing, and concert ticket sales," said Stifel Nicolaus analyst John Egbert. "Pandora can now share in the upside of live music industry growth that is undoubtedly being driven in large part by rapid growth in streaming music consumption."

The deal, which is expected to be complete by the end of this year, comes at a time when fewer people are buying and downloading music and more are streaming it. Meanwhile, touring is becoming a bigger and bigger source of income for artists.

Pandora and Ticketfly say concert ticket sales in North America are growing and

people are spending more money on live music, but about 40 percent of all concert tickets still go unsold. They say that is because fans often don't know that artists they like are in town, something they hope to remedy.

Ticketfly's main business, and the source of Pandora's interest, is with smaller venues and independent artists because that's where most concert tickets are sold, Egbert said. He said the purchase will make Pandora "the premier platform for independent artist marketing."

Pandora went public in 2011 and reported \$921 million in revenue in 2014. Most of that comes from selling ads, although Pandora also sells subscriptions for \$5 a month. The Oakland, California-based company has yet to report

an annual profit.

Last year it launched a marketing platform for artists, followed this year by an audio messaging service artists can use to deliver messages to fans. This spring it worked with the Rolling Stones to promote their North American "Zip Code" tour. It also worked with the electronic music duo Odesza, boosting the profile of a group not nearly as well known as the Stones.

The companies say San Francisco-based Ticketfly sold 16 million tickets to 90,000 events last year, with the value of those tickets surpassing \$500 million. They added that 14 million people visit Ticketfly's sites each month. Egbert said Ticketfly had about \$55 million in revenue in 2014 and should have \$75 million to \$80 million this year. □

Urban Outfitters: On-call schedules in New York over

MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Urban Outfitters will end on-call scheduling at stores in New York state, becoming the latest retailer to respond to Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's inquiry into the practice of requiring workers to report for shifts on short notice.

The Philadelphia-based retailer plans to phase in the change next month, Schneiderman said. The company agreed to provide New York employees with work schedules at least one week in advance, he said. Urban Outfitters did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"Workers deserve basic protections, including a reliable work schedule that allows them to budget living expenses, arrange for childcare needs, and plan their days," Schneiderman said.

In April, his office wrote to 13 major retailers questioning the on-call practice. The letter also cited possible violations of New York's requirement to pay hourly staff for at least four hours when they report for work. Other retailers with agreements are L. Brands' Bath & Body Works and Victoria's Secret for their U.S. stores, as well as Abercrombie & Fitch and Gap Inc.

San Francisco-based Gap said its decision also applies to its other brands, including Banana Republic, Old Navy and Athleta, and the change will apply "across our global organization."

New Albany, Ohio-based Abercrombie said it will discontinue call-in shift scheduling in New York by year's end, with a long-term goal of ending it nationally, the change also applying its other brands Hollister and Abercrombie Kids.

Schneiderman's office also sent letters to J. Crew Group Inc., Burlington Coat Factory, TJX Companies, Target Corp., Sears Holding Corp., Williams-Sonoma Inc., Crocs, Ann Inc. and J.C. Penney Co. Inc. □

Wall Street moves sideways, ends with solid gains



Trader Richard Newman, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks posted solid gains in a quiet session Wednesday, helped by advances in health-care and industrial companies.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks posted solid gains in a quiet session Wednesday, helped by advances in health-care and industrial companies.

Without any major economic reports to work with, trading was lighter than usual. Many investors remain on the sidelines ahead of

Thursday's release of minutes from the Federal Reserve's latest policy meeting and the start of corporate earnings season. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 122.10 points, or 0.7 percent, to 16,912.29. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 15.91 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,995.83 and the Nasdaq composite rose 42.79 points, or 0.9

percent, to 4,791.15. The biggest gainers were stocks that were hit hardest the day before: health-care, particularly biotechnology companies, and energy stocks. Drugmaker Amgen rose nearly 5 percent, Celgene rose 4 percent and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals rose nearly 6 percent.

By far the biggest loser in

the S&P 500 index was Yum Brands, the parent company of KFC, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut. Yum sank \$15.71, or 19 percent, to \$67.71 after the restaurant operator's profits and sales missed analysts' expectations. Sales in China, a major market for KFC, rose only 2 percent, far less than expected.

Events over the next two weeks are likely to determine the market's next move.

Earnings season will unofficially start Thursday when Alcoa, the giant maker of aluminum and other metals, will report its results. Expectations for this round of earnings are low. Analysts expect third-quarter results to be down 5.1 percent from last year, according to FactSet, which would be the first back-to-back quarterly drop in earnings since 2009.

"Expectations are so low this quarter that it's not going to be hard for companies to beat," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank, overseeing \$66 billion in assets. Another concern lingering on investors' minds is whether the global economy is entering a downturn. □

Monsanto says will eliminate 2,600 jobs, posts 4Q loss

MATTHEW PERRONE

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Monsanto Co. said Wednesday it will eliminate 2,600 jobs as part of a cost-saving plan designed to deal with falling sales of its biotech seeds and herbicides, which pushed its quarterly losses deeper into the red. The job cuts will reduce the company's 22,500-employee workforce of by about 12 percent over the next

two years.

The St. Louis-based agricultural giant predicts the move will generate between \$275 million and \$300 million in annual savings by the end of fiscal 2017. The cost of the reorganization — which will streamline sales, R&D and other departments — is estimated at \$850 million to \$900 million.

Monsanto's last round of layoffs came in June

2009, when the company slashed 900 jobs.

CEO Hugh Grant pointed to the negative impact of foreign exchange rates as well as falling crop prices that have squeezed farmers.

"Despite weakening global currencies and commodity prices we continue to view this as a time of opportunity," Grant said on a call with analysts.

Monsanto has struggled in

recent quarters to deal with slumping corn prices in the U.S., which have reduced demand for its best-selling product: genetically-enhanced corn seeds. Farmers are shifting more acres to other crops due to a surplus of corn from last year's harvest. Even with that shift, 2015 is expected to bring the third-largest corn harvest on record, squashing prices and limiting farmers' profits.

Monsanto's biotech seeds have genetically engineered traits that help farmers increase their crop yield, despite their higher costs.

Monsanto announced the lay-offs as it reported a \$495 million loss for its fiscal fourth quarter.

The company posted a net loss of \$1.06 per share, compared with a net loss of \$156 million, or 31 cents per share, a year ago. □

Renewed AB InBev bid for SABMiller ups stake in beer battle



Budweiser beer cans at a concession stand at McKechnie Field in Bradenton, Florida, USA. Anheuser-Busch InBev, the owner of the world's biggest brewer Budweiser, on Wednesday Oct. 7, 2015, raised its takeover offer for rival SABMiller to more than \$104 billion, but the offer was rejected.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

RAF CASERT

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Any talk of a union between Budweiser and Miller — in fact,

any talk of the creation of beer behemoth reaching all parts of the globe for that matter — should be put off for now as the owners of two of the world's

most famous beers continue to haggle over the terms of a merger.

Earlier Wednesday, Budweiser's Belgian-Brazilian owner Anheuser-Busch In-

Bev sweetened its offer for SABMiller to more than 68 billion pounds (\$104 billion) but the reply remained as bitter as the rejection of the two previous proposals.

It's just not enough.

"AB InBev is very substantially undervaluing SABMiller," said SABMiller chairman Jan du Plessis.

There was no outright rejection that a merger is possible so it remains possible that AB InBev could find a more genial response if it raises its offer further.

Were an agreement to eventually emerge, the combined company would have 31 percent of the global beer market, dwarfing the next biggest player, Heineken, which has 9 percent of the market. As well as bringing together the classic U.S. favorites, the merger would also see AB InBev's Stella Artois and SABMiller's Grolsch in the

same stable.

And it would allow AB InBev to venture out more into the African and Australian markets where its might is yet to be felt like it is in Europe, North Africa and Asia.

In the event of a deal, the sheer size of the combined company is expected to push regulators to require the sale of some brands to ensure fair competition. That could include Miller in the United States.

AB InBev CEO Carlos Brito said the combined company "would build the first truly global beer company."

Earlier, AB InBev increased its cash offer to 42.15 pounds (\$64.35) per share. SABMiller quickly shot down the proposal, noting that it was only 15 pence higher than an informal 42-pound offer rejected by the board on Monday. □

Samsung 3Q operating profit surges, shares jump 9 percent

YOUKYUNG LEE

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Samsung Electronics announced a forecast-beating profit for the third quarter Wednesday, sending its share price up nearly 9 percent, but analysts said strong component sales and favorable currency exchange rates masked persistent weakness in its smartphone business.

The South Korean company estimated that its operating profit for the July-September quarter was 7.3 trillion won (\$6.3 billion), up 80 percent from a year ear-

lier and higher than analyst forecasts. Sales rose 7 percent to 51 trillion won (\$43.9 billion) for the quarter. Samsung will announce its overall net profit and earnings for each of its business divisions later this month.

Shares of Samsung Electronics closed up 8.7 percent, its biggest daily gain since January, 2009. Expectations that Samsung would dole out some of its cash to shareholders through a share buyback help fuel the rise.

The result showed that Samsung was on track for a recovery after growth

in earnings crumbled last year. But the world's largest smartphone maker is still struggling to maintain its market share in phones amid intense competition from Apple, Huawei and Xiaomi. Its operating profit has gained quarter to quarter for the past year since falling to 4.1 trillion won one year ago. But profit from its mobile division has weakened. Analysts said Samsung's solid result in the last quarter was because of stronger sales in mobile displays and chips while the weak Korean won against the U.S. dollar boosted the

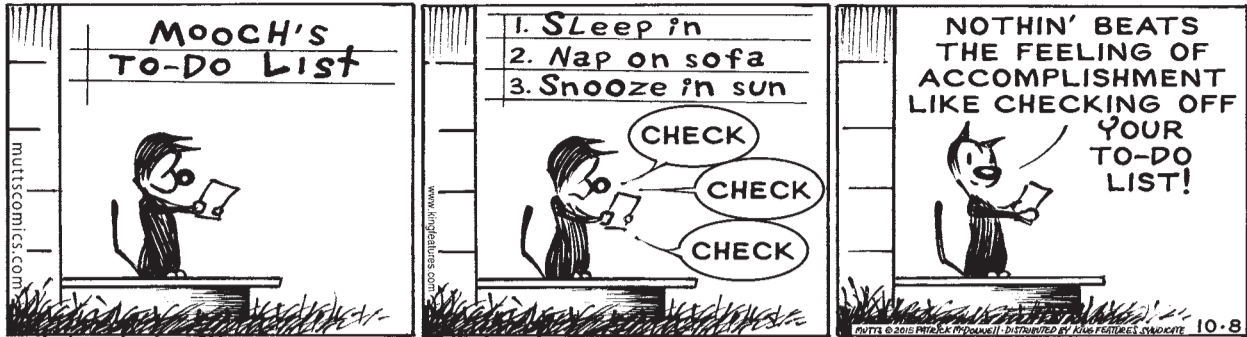
value of its earnings overseas. The positive impact from the weak Korean won on Samsung's component businesses was "significant," said Nomura Holdings analyst Chung Changwon. Most Samsung components are sold in the U.S. dollars. The South Korean currency dropped sharply against the U.S. dollar, falling at a faster rate than many other currencies during the last three months. On the component front, the company's advanced displays called OLED likely generated a fat profit because more Samsung

handsets adopted those screens. Its mainstay semiconductor division contributed more than half of its overall profit, according to estimates by analysts.

Meanwhile, Samsung's profit from its smartphone division likely declined from a year earlier even as the company's handset shipments are believed by analysts to have gone up.

That's partly because one of Samsung's most expensive smartphones, the Galaxy Edge with a curved display, is lagging in sales because of production constraints. □

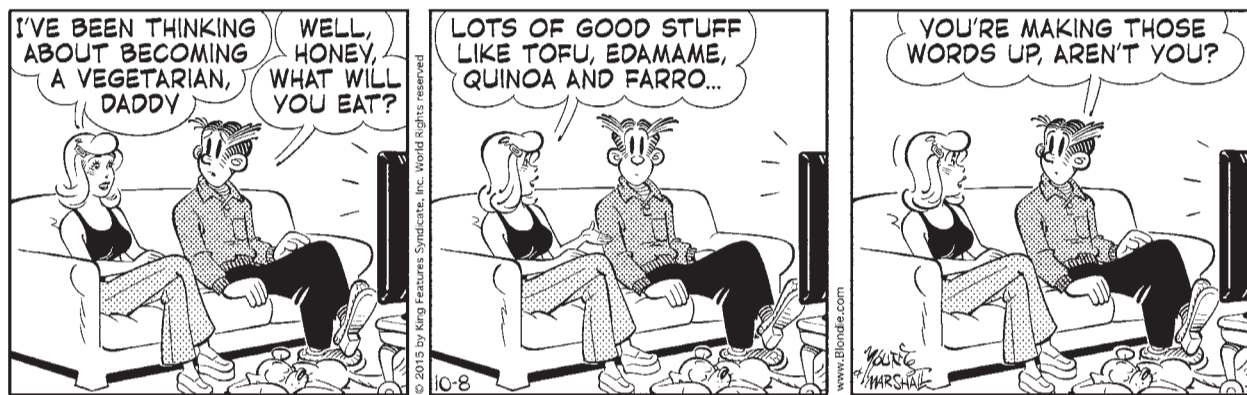
Mutts



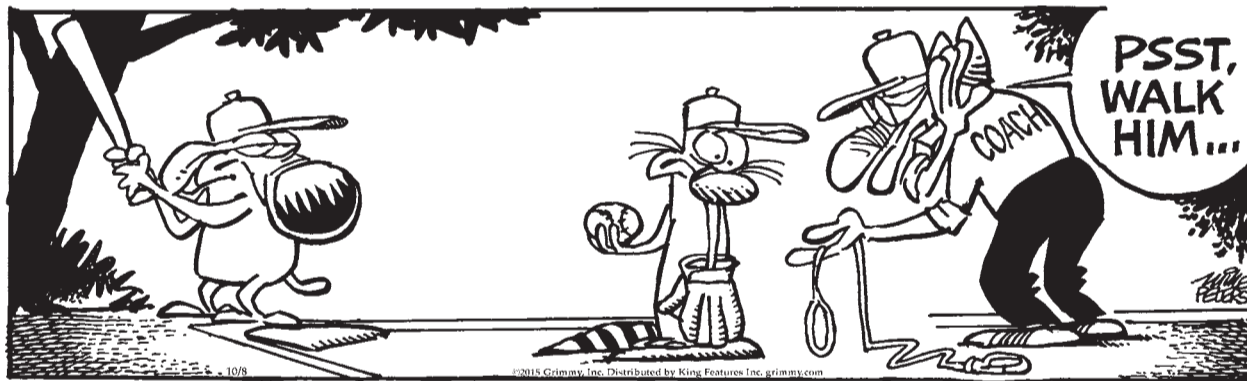
6 Chix



Blondie



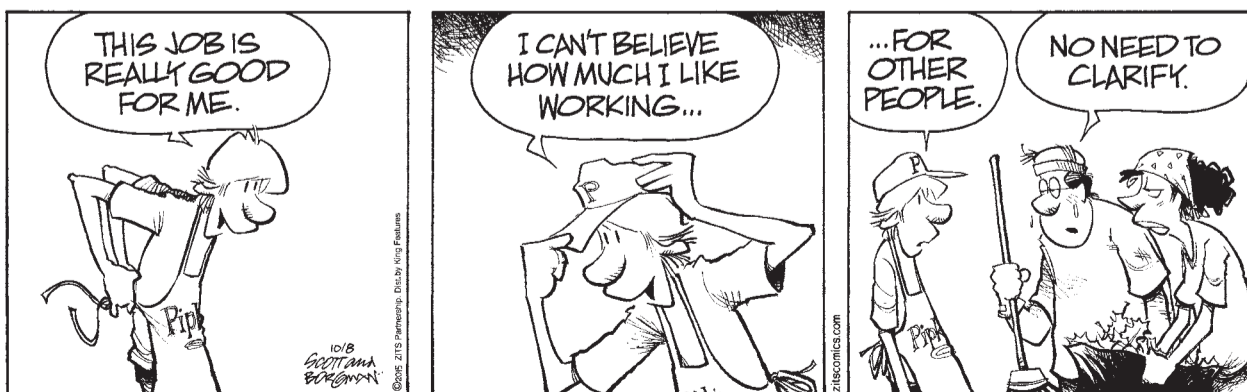
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5						4	
4			6		8			2
			1		2			
	8	6				5	1	
				3				
	7	4				3	8	
			5		3			
5			7		4			1
	3						9	

Difficulty Level ★★

10/08

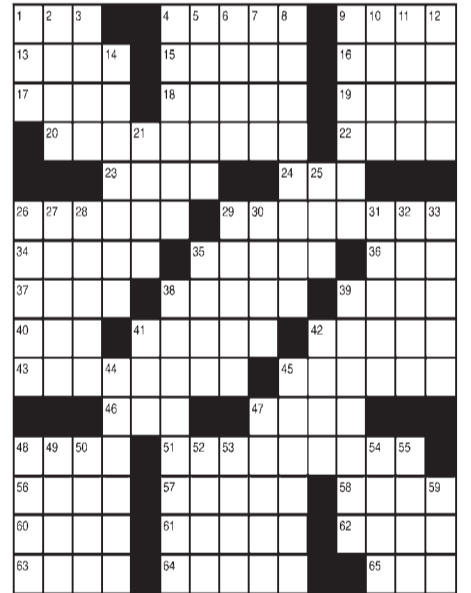
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	2	8	4	3	7	1	5	9
1	9	3	6	5	2	7	4	8
4	7	5	8	1	9	2	3	6
3	6	2	1	4	8	5	9	7
5	4	7	9	2	3	8	6	1
8	1	9	5	7	6	4	2	3
9	3	1	2	8	4	6	7	5
2	5	6	7	9	1	3	8	4
7	8	4	3	6	5	9	1	2

ACROSS

- 1 Scrubbing pad
4 Walked the floor
9 As blind as ____
13 Floored
15 Make amends
16 Singer Jerry ____
17 Close by
18 Obeys
19 Biblical garden
20 Suffering from insomnia
22 ____ egg; money saved up
23 Bench piece
24 Huge bird from Australia
26 Crystals
29 Makes right
34 Goes upward
35 Schemes
36 Eminem's music
37 "Woe is me!"
38 ____ up; supports from beneath
39 "Arsenic and Old ____"
40 Sri Lankan export
41 Luster
42 ____ to my ears; welcome news
43 Exciting adventure
45 Points of interest on a tour
46 Big ____; Whopper rival
47 Execute, in the Old West
48 Messy person
51 Helper
56 Scuttle chunks
57 Cheers
58 Spanish artist
60 Longing
61 Actor Willem
62 Notice
63 Dull sound
64 Shadowboxes
65 Garden tool
- DOWN**
1 ____ Diego, CA
2 Has debts



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

CHAMP	EBBS	PROS
LOWER	BOAT	LICK
ARENA	SAGA	ANTI
PASTIMES	MOCKED	
ASAN	REPASTS	
COILED	TENET	
ORR	DAMON	NEARS
SLIM	SODAS	DUAL
TYSON	ADLIB	SKI
LOFTY	TESTED	
SAFARIS	BEST	
PLASMA	DISTRESS	
ILLS	SPUD	MILNE
ROSE	CONE	ADMIT
EYES	OXEN	NESTS

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- 3 Make airtight
4 Plains of South America
5 Lopsided
6 "Cup or ____?"; Baskin-Robbins patron's choice
7 Make ____ meet; eke out a living
8 Dinner courses
9 Broad street
10 Commanded
11 Frothy drinks
12 Portable shelter
14 Frocks
21 Lawn trees
25 Sra. or Mme.
26 Babble
27 Angers
28 Father of Esau and Jacob
29 Shut
30 Fumbler's word
31 Car accident
32 Understood, though not said
33 Eyeglasses, for short
35 Nudge
- 38 Posters
39 Suitcases
41 4.0, for a brainy student: abbr.
42 Make coins
44 Walked slowly
45 Talks back
47 ____-miss; haphazard
- 48 "Get lost!"
49 Scotland's ____
50 Lomond
50 Hawaiian island
52 Daytime serial
53 Couch
54 Have a snack
55 Office error
59 Certain vote

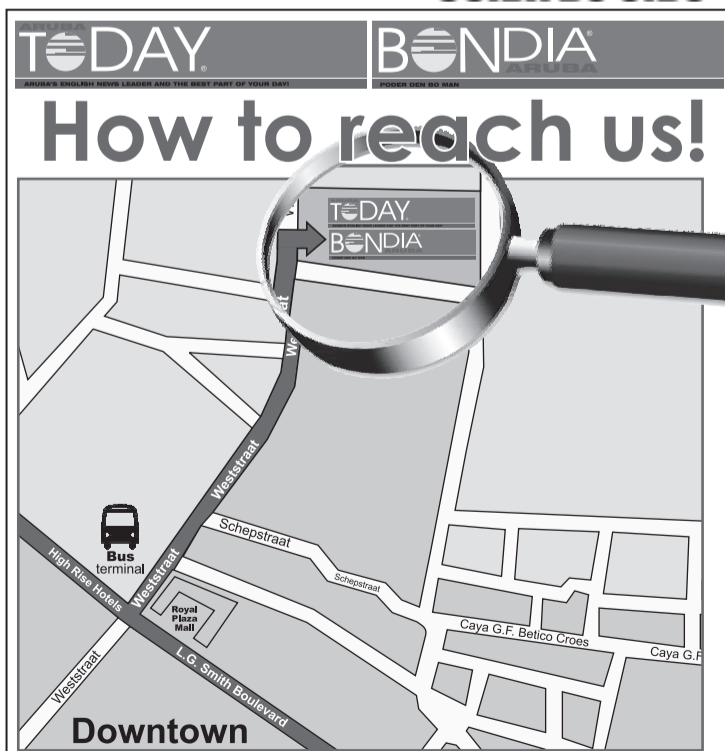
Continued from Page 2

"The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a government offensive began early Wednesday on four fronts in Idlib and neighboring Hama provinces in what the group's director Rami Abdurrahman called "the most intense fighting in months." In Syria, the leader of a U.S.-backed rebel group Tajammu Alezzah confirmed the ground offensive in a text message to The Associated Press, saying Russian and Iranian soldiers were involved in the operation. Russian officials deny sending any ground troops to the battlefield. Iran has been bolstering Assad by sending weapons and advisers, and helping arrange the deployment of Shiite fighters from Iraq and Hezbollah, as well as sending financial aid. Last month, an intelligence sharing center was set up in Baghdad by Russia, Iraq, Iran and Syria to coordinate efforts to combat the Islamic State group. Maj. Jamil al-Saleh said the offensive, accompanied by air cover and shelling,

came from three fronts, including Latamneh, north of Hama province where his Tajammu Alezzah group is based, and Kfar Zeita to the north. The offensive targeted rural areas of Hama and Idlib that are almost totally controlled by rebel groups, he said. Activist Ahmad al-Ahmad, who is in Idlib, said government troops "heavily" shelled central areas after rebels attacked an army post and destroyed a tank. He said the advance covered an area of over 16 kilometers (10 miles), and was a coordinated, multipronged attack, the boldest in the area in months. The rebels repulsed government troops, al-Ahmad said. The Observatory, which has a network of activists in Syria, said the main launching point for government forces was the town of Morek on a highway linking Damascus and Aleppo, Syria's largest city and its former commercial hub. Rebels have controlled areas on the highway since 2012. □

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30	515	\$4,900
30	311	\$5,000
23	343	\$4,500
27	103	\$4,000
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24/7

Feds say first humpback whales of season spotted in Hawaii

CALEB JONES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP) -- Humpback whales were spotted in the waters off Hawaii for the first time this season, leading officials to warn ships and recreational boaters to steer clear of the endangered visitors. Researchers saw the first whale about a week ago off the small island of Niihau, near Kauai, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a news release Tuesday. A second whale was seen days later near Kauai's Pacific Missile Range Facility. Humpbacks normally arrive in the tropics in November and stay through May. There has been a general trend toward earlier arrivals in the past two decades, with the average in the past 10 years happening on Oct. 1, officials said. About 10,000 humpbacks winter in Hawaii each year. Officials said boats should watch for and avoid the newly arriving whales. Ship strikes and entanglements can kill the animals and in-



A humpback whale breaches in the Columbia River near the Astoria-Megler Bridge Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, near Chinook, Wash.
Associated Press

jure people on board. "It's important for everyone to be extra vigilant during whale season, for their own safety and the protection of the animals," said Malia Chow, superintendent of the Hawaiian

Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. While researchers have little data on the number of fatal whale encounters with people, they know that boat strikes are com-

mon. Most times, the injured whales are devoured by sharks or sink after they die, so scientists don't know about the encounter. "The first day there's like three sharks, the second day there's 10," said NO-

AA's Ed Lyman, who monitors whale strikes and entanglements in the Pacific. "They make short work of eating a whale and it's off the radar screen for us." About 50 percent of whales in heavily monitored parts of the Pacific Ocean have scars on their body that indicate they have been injured by human activity, Lyman said. Federal officials proposed removing most of the world's humpback whales from the endangered species list in April. The iconic mammal was on the verge of extinction when the international community banned whaling of the species nearly 50 years ago. The U.S. government listed it as endangered four years later. But that doesn't mean they will lack protections. The whales would still be covered by the Marine Mammals Protection Act. Plus, the U.S. is a member of the International Whaling Commission, which banned commercial whaling in 1966. □

Study: Mammals thrive in Chernobyl exclusion zone

KATHERINE JACOBSEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW (AP) -- Nearly 30 years after a nuclear reactor caught fire and spewed a lethal cloud of radiation, some species of mammals are thriving in the zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, a new study says. The study, published in the journal *Current Biology*, found that elk, deer, wild boar and wolves are abundant in the 2,160-square-kilometer (835-square-mile) Polesie reserve in Belarus, which was established after the 1986 disaster. More

than 20,000 people once lived in what is now the reserve. "We're not saying radiation is good for animals, but we are saying that human interference can be more harmful to certain animal populations than radiation," said Jim Smith, an environmental scientist at Britain's University of Portsmouth who led the study. To track the mammals, researchers used aerial surveys and examined animal tracks in the snow. Smith and his team found there was no difference in the number of large mam-

mals living in the Polesie reserve and in other Belarusian nature reserves. The prevalence of wolves is seven times higher than in nearby non-contaminated nature reserves, which Smith attributed to the lack of hunting in contaminated areas. Biologist Timothy Mousseau at the University of South Carolina said Smith's research presents an overly optimistic view of the situation around Chernobyl. "There is no evidence to suggest this area is teeming with wildlife," said Mousseau, whose research

has focused on how radiation has affected reptile, insect and small mammal populations. These animals have struggled to make a comeback in the wake of Chernobyl and have suffered from a range of nuclear-related diseases, according to Mousseau's research. The mammals in Smith's research are constantly dispersing and have high fertility rates, factors that could also explain a robust population of certain mammal species in the Polesie nature reserve. The 1986 explosion and fire

sent a cloud of radiation drifting over much of Europe and forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people. Along with the Belarusian Polesie preserve, a 2,600-square-kilometer (1,000-square-mile) "exclusion zone" was established in Ukraine around the plant. That zone is almost entirely abandoned except for about 200 mostly elderly people who returned to their homes. Some workers building a protective shelter around the reactor and cleaning up the waste live in the zone, but only for two weeks at a time. □

Spike Lee on Oscar speech: 'Gonna try to keep positive'



In this Jan. 25, 2015 file photo, writer-director Spike Lee poses for a portrait during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Spike Lee says he hasn't had time yet to plan what he'll say when he gets his honorary Oscar next month — he's busy trying to finish up his new movie, "Chirag," for a year-end release. But he promises he's "gonna try to keep positive."

Still, that hardly means that Lee — at times a quite vocal critic of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — thinks that all is perfect in Hollywood in terms of diversity.

"This is my belief," the filmmaker said in a recent interview. "Until people of color get into those positions that I call the gatekeepers, that's where true fundamental progress will be made. Because right now ... we are not in the room where those decisions are being made, what gets made and what doesn't. I mean I'm still waiting for somebody to tell me, is there a person of color at a Hollywood studio, at a cable television network who has a green light vote? I don't know one, and I want somebody to prove me ill-informed."

At 58, Lee is one of the youngest figures to receive an honorary Oscar, which is tantamount to a lifetime achievement award (it'll be presented at the Governors Awards on Nov. 14.) For his many fans, an Oscar of any kind is well overdue, coming a full quarter-century after his much-lauded "Do the Right Thing," which figures on many best-film lists, earned him only a screenplay nomination in 1990 (plus a supporting actor nod for Danny Aiello.) Lee hasn't been shy in his criticism of the academy over the years, but says its president, Cheryl Boone Isaacs, is moving things in the right direction.

"She's the one that's really trying to move the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences into the 21st century as far as diversity goes," Lee said. "I will ever be in her debt." But as far as overall progress in the film industry, it's a frustrating cycle, Lee says. Hollywood's lack of diversity was at the forefront during awards season, when the #OscarSoWhite hashtag went viral.

"There's always progress but you take two steps

forward and two steps back," he said. "Every 10

years, there's like a bunch of black films (that) get acknowledged and everybody starts writing articles about the rebirth of black cinema, and everyone's doing cartwheels and handstands, and then it's a nine-year drought. And then another 10 years come and they write the same article.

"Until we get to those gatekeeper positions, we're going to have this one-year explosion and nine-year drought."

It's a busy autumn for Lee. In addition to trying to finish "Chirag," which explores violence in Chicago and will be released by Amazon Studios, the filmmaker has just been named grand marshal of the New York City Marathon, a rare honor (there have only been two before Lee in the race's 45-year history).

He's the first New Yorker in the role, no doubt chosen at least partly for his unadulterated passion for his hometown, not to mention its sports teams.

Two weeks later, he'll be making an Oscar speech. It isn't written, but he can say what it WON'T be: "I love my man Michael Jordan, but it's not going to be his Hall of Fame speech," Lee said, laughingly referring to the lengthy, tearful, sometimes biting 2009 speech in which Jordan listed past slights. "Here's the thing though. It's a great honor and I'm glad I'm getting it, but I don't think it's a validation of the work I've done. History has validated it. I'm not trying to sound bitter or trite. But if this honorary Oscar never happened, I'd still not have thought less of my body of work." □

People magazine issues gun violence 'call to action'



In this Dec. 18, 2014 file photo, People magazine editorial director Jess Cagle arrives at The People Magazine Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In the aftermath of the Oregon school shooting, People magazine did something it always does: It covered the story at length and wrote about each victim. But the magazine also did something it hasn't done before.

It issued a "call to action," asking readers to contact their representatives in Congress and find out what they're doing about gun violence. It printed the names and phone num-

bers of all 535 voting members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. "Ask your representatives about gun violence in America, and let them know what you think," says the accompanying message, which appears in the issue on newsstands Wednesday, and was posted on People.com.

Jess Cagle, People's editorial director, said reaction so far has been "generally supportive." But he added that some people had immediately criticized the

magazine for taking a political stand — which, he said, editors took pains not to do. "All we're saying is, 'Hold your representatives' feet to the fire,'" Cagle said. "'Let them know what you're thinking.' That's all. But everyone sort of projects their own baggage onto (the issue.)"

"Who knows if this will help?" Cagle asked. "It's just so hard to read and write about these shootings and not want to do something about it." He added that the Oregon shooting, in which Christopher Harper-Mercer fatally shot nine people at Umpqua Community College before killing himself, had "caused a kind of a tipping point."

"These mass shootings are so shocking, and there are so many of them," Cagle said. "And as we covered this one, it was just so horrifying to think how many times we've been doing it." In its coverage, the magazine also pays tribute to other victims of mass shootings in the United States over the past 12 months. □

John Fogerty on ups, downs, becoming music's fortunate son

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

TOPANGA, Calif. (AP) — Although he wrote the classic Americana songbook, it took John Fogerty more than 30 years to come to terms with the realization he really was one of rock music's fortunate sons.

For one incredible 12-month run, this blue-collar kid from a San Francisco suburb had been the leader of a band that reshaped popular music. In 1969 Creedence Clearwater Revival sold more records and had more hit songs — including classics like "Proud Mary," "Lodi," "Green River" and "Bad Moon Rising" — than even the Beatles.

Then three years later, it was over. The biggest band in the world had imploded in one of the most acrimonious splits of all time, one followed by decades of lawsuits and angry allegations.

Even though Fogerty would go on to a successful solo career, he says now that it was a split so intense that it sent him into depression-



In this Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015 photo, musician John Fogerty poses for a portrait during an interview about his new memoir "Fortunate Son: My Life, My Music," in Topanga, Calif. Associated Press

driven drinking binges that lasted for days.

"Which is a stinking way

to live," he adds with a shy smile as he sits in the barn of a friend's house in Topanga, the wooded arts colony nestled in coastal canyons between Santa Monica and Malibu. Dressed in his trademark plaid flannel shirt, jeans and boots, Fogerty sat down on a scorching fall day to talk about his just-released memoir, "Fortunate Son: My Life, My Music," which he hopes will set the record straight about the band's estrangement.

He recalls how just asking him about the possibility of a Creedence reunion used to send him into a towering rage.

"I'd go, 'ARRRGH, I WILL NEVER ...,'" he screams as he throws his hands up in mock anger. Then he laughs and shakes his head, adding he's finally let those feelings go.

"So to answer your question," he says with a smile, "I don't know. Maybe."

But he doubts it, and so do Creedence's other surviving members.

"Things are too broken," says drummer Doug Clifford, who tours these days

with bassist Stu Cook under the name Creedence Clearwater Revisited. Cook chuckles when he says, "I think it would be a milestone if we could just sit down and have a beer."

Although Fogerty reminisces fondly at times about the early days of a group founded by his late brother, Tom, and the two friends he'd known since junior high school, he says things fell apart when the others came to believe they were equal to the Beatles in talent.

But while the Beatles had three great songwriters, two great singers and four members with out-sized personalities, he says, Creedence had only him.

He wrote all the songs that became hits, he says, because no one else could. He sang all the leads in that instantly recognizable tenor for the same reason, and he arranged the band's unique, fuzz-guitar-driven sound he calls "swamp rock" because that was his vision.

While Clifford and Cook don't disagree with that assessment, they say it was

Fogerty's unwillingness to let them have any say in anything that finally destroyed Creedence.

"The songwriting he gets an A-plus for," Clifford says in a phone interview. "But when it comes to his shift to management, he gets an F-minus."

After the band disintegrated, Fogerty turned to solo work, re-establishing his brilliance as a songwriter with "Centerfield," a song that's played at Major League Baseball games all over the country.

But another hit song, "The Old Man Down the Road," prompted his former record label, Fantasy, to sue, claiming he'd copied it from the Creedence hit "Run Through the Jungle," which he also wrote.

Although Fogerty prevailed in court, the experience left him so angry that for years he wouldn't perform any Creedence songs because Fantasy owned the publishing rights. Meanwhile, his output of new material dried up as he drank heavily.

He went 11 years between recordings until "Blue Moon Swamp" won the Grammy for best rock album in 1997. He credits his second wife, Julie, and their children with putting him on the path to both sobriety and musical harmony, while inspiring him to sing his old songs again and write new ones.

These days, the 70-year-old Fogerty awakens at 4 o'clock most mornings to work on music before taking his daughter, Kelsy, to school. Sons Tyler and Shane play in his band, and with the book done, he's looking to record a new album.

Asked how he feels knowing that, despite all the travails, those old albums made him a legend, he nearly falls out of his chair laughing.

"In all sincerity, I don't walk around feeling like that guy," he says.

After some thought, he adds: "That guy who gets to go out and play those songs live, that part I'm very grateful for." □

A GUIDE

Continued from Page 23

— Sony's PlayStation Vue

THE DEAL: The TV service lets customers watch a variety of channels, including Fox Sports 1, TNT, most broadcast networks and some local sports channels. Disney-owned ABC and ESPN aren't included. **LIMITATIONS:** Available only in Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Requires a PlayStation game console.

Some nationally broadcast games may be blacked out.

PRICE: \$50 a month gets you broadcast networks and sports cable channels like Fox Sports 1 and NBCSN, while \$60 gets you the basic package plus Big Ten Network, beIN Sports and local sports channels.

Extra \$15 for soccer-focused service, Fox Soccer

Plus.

WHAT ELSE?

There are sites and services for almost any sport you'd want to watch. Subscriptions are typically required. For instance, go to <http://willow.tv> for cricket, <http://nhl.com/gamecenterlive> for hockey, <http://foxsoccer2go.com> and <http://fubo.tv> for soccer, and <http://icenetwork.com> for ice skating.

College sports are tricky. The CBS Sports site and app streams basketball games — last season, there were 27 free ones, but this year's streaming schedule hasn't been announced — and Southeastern Conference football games.

The company also offers College Sports Live, but most football games only get an audio feed, not video. Fox has some Big East college sports online. □

Roker to headline Weather Channel's digital show



In this March 16, 2015 file photo, Al Roker attends the premiere of "The Divergent Series: Insurgent" at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

Associated Press

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After The Weather Channel canceled his morning show, Al Roker is coming back on a much smaller screen. He's the headliner for "The Lift," a digital offering that could have intriguing implications for television programs. It will launch on Oct. 15, available on the network's free mobile app on weekdays between 6 and 11 a.m. Each day's program will include six minutes of weather news, science and nature stories, fun videos and eventually local forecasts tailored to the mobile device owner (development of the local forecast technology won't be ready for the launch). "The Lift" comes a few weeks after The Weather Channel axed the two-hour morning show, "Wake Up with Al," that Roker had hosted. "Was I sad to see 'Wake Up with Al' go?" Roker asked. "Absolutely. But it was a better opportunity to utilize my time. Two hours is two hours, and this is a considerably shorter show." The Weather Channel cited research from eMar-

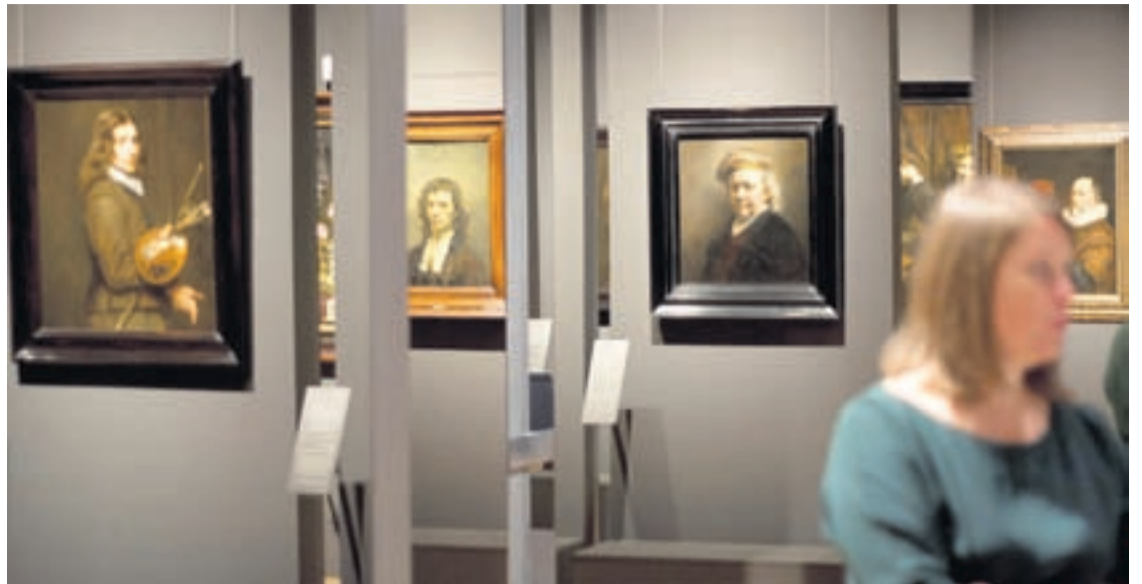
keter that 65 percent of smartphone users in the U.S. check their devices within 15 minutes of waking up. The morning is also the network's busiest time of day as viewers check to see what their day will be like.

Mobile users will see a link to "The Lift" when they open their Weather Channel app. They will be able to watch it as a six-minute show or in individual segments 40 to 60 seconds long. Roker said he can see "The Lift" being a model for other information-based television shows or networks as a way to augment their reach.

"Other programmers will migrate to that model before long," he said.

The show will primarily be produced out of a newly-built Atlanta studio, with Roker filming his contributions from New York or elsewhere when he's sent on location by the "Today" show. Meteorologists Domenica Davis and Ari Sarsalari will also be featured on "The Lift."

"It's like the difference between having a sit-down breakfast or a good grab-and-go," Roker said. □



A person looks at a self-portrait by Dutch master Rembrandt dated 1669 during a press preview of an exhibition called "Dutch Self-Portraits - Selfies of the Golden Age", at the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague, Wednesday Oct. 7, 2015.

Associated Press

17th century 'selfies' show at Dutch museum the Mauritshuis

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — These days, anybody with a smartphone can snap a selfie in a split second. Back in the Dutch Golden Age, they were called self-portraits and were the preserve of highly trained artists who thought long and hard about every aspect of the painting. Now the Mauritshuis museum is staging an exhibition focusing solely on these 17th century self-portraits, highlighting the similarities and the differences between modern-day snapshots and historic works of art.

The museum's director, Emilie Gordenker, said Wednesday there has never been such an exhibition of Golden Age Dutch self-portraits before and her museum was keen to tie the paintings to a modern-day phenomenon — the ubiquitous selfies captured with smartphone cameras and spread via social media.

The exhibition opening Thursday and running through Jan. 3 features 27 self-portraits by artists ranging from Rembrandt van Rijn, a master of the genre, to his student Carel Fabritius — best known for "The Goldfinch," which hangs elsewhere in the Mauri-

shuis — and Judith Leyster, whose self-portrait is on loan from the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

A less well-known artist, Huygh Pietersz Voskuyl, is the poster boy for the exhibition. His striking 1638 self-portrait features a classic selfie pose; staring over his right shoulder out of the frame. It does not take much imagination to picture him gazing into the lens of a smartphone rather than a mirror — which Golden Age artists used to capture their images for self-portraits. Giant mirrors are spread through the exhibition space, creating reflections within reflections of paintings that are themselves mirror images.

While the similarities between selfies and self-portraits are obvious — the subject matter is the person creating the image — the differences are also apparent. A selfie is often shot speedily with little concern for composition, while these self-portraits are carefully conceived works of art. A video made for the exhibition highlights the thought that went into the paintings and what today's selfie makers can learn from it to improve their snapshots.

And, yes, you are allowed to take selfies in the museum.

The Voskuyl is a good example of the richness that can be found in such an apparently simple picture. "He brings out all these little details, like his beard or the little embroidery on his shirt, even a kind of fake wood-paneled wall behind him," Gordenker said. "So he's thought very hard about the textures and the things that make him who he is. At the same time, you can see the skill with which he painted this and this will have definitely been a very good advertisement for what he could do."

That kind of attention to detail and quality made the self-portraits almost a Golden Age calling card — showcasing the artist and his or her talents to potential clients.

"A lot of artists in the 17th century painted self-portraits, not only as portraits of themselves but also as an example of the beautiful art that they could make," said the exhibition's curator Ariane van Suchtelen. "For instance, Rembrandt was very famous for his very virtuoso sketchy way of painting. If you would buy a self-portrait by Rembrandt, you would not only have a portrait of this famous artist but also an example of what he could do, what he was famous for — his art." □

MANGO Man Presents: Zinédine Zidane as The Face of the Autumn/ Winter Collection



ORANJESTAD/PARIS - **MANGO** Man presents the French superstar Zinédine Zidane as the face of the new Autumn/Winter 2015 campaign #zidaneformango during Paris Fashion Week. The firm have invited numerous media to the mythical Pin Up stadium in Paris.

Zidane posed for all of them in his characteristic informal and friendly manner, dealing with questions on his latest collaboration with MANGO Man. For this season, the Spanish firm has opted for essential tones such as beige, camel, toast and khaki, in addition to indigo blue and



a range of greys. The key garments include parkas, Brit-style check shirts and a wide range of knitwear-structured garments, together with jogging-style trousers. Talking about the collection, Zinédine Zidane

said: I don't want to sound repetitive, but I really liked the winter collection. It is simple, with a good cut and it offers many combinations, just the way I like it. I hope that it shows because I think the mod-

els chosen really suit me. MANGO Man was founded in 2008 and now has 290 retail outlets in 52 countries, including Aruba. MANGO is located at Caya Betico Croes #9 on the mainstreet in Oranjestad. □